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Aruba **TODAY**

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, January 15, 2015

Travel Brilliantly



Marriott Invites Guests to Share Their Adventures with GoPro!

Marriott Guests document their exciting adventures parasailing in the Caribbean with a GoPro HERO4 Camera, made available for complimentary use during their vacation by Marriott Hotels.

(Handout Photo)

- **Marriott Hotels in the Caribbean & Latin America offer complimentary GoPro HERO4 cameras for guest use during stay.**

PALM BEACH - Marriott Hotels, Marriott International's flagship brand, is elevating

their guests' experiences by enabling them to document their adventures using the GoPro HERO4. The program, available at 17 hotels and resorts across the Caribbean and Latin America, allows guests to take a complimentary test

drive of a GoPro HERO4. "We live in an increasingly digital and social age. Through this groundbreaking program at Marriott Hotels, we're giving guests the opportunity to test drive the latest GoPro technology, capture their amazing

travel experiences, and immediately share that content with their friends and family," said Craig S. Smith, President of the Caribbean and Latin America at Marriott International. "Marriott has made it a goal to constantly innovate our hotels

and digital services to continue to attract the next generation of travelers, always finding new ways to engage with them and co-create the future of our brands."

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Police comb Paris gunman's safe house

JOHN DAHLBURG
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Amedy Coulibaly, the gunman who killed four hostages at a Paris kosher supermarket, rented a small suburban house the week before and filled it with an impressive arsenal of late-model weapons, police said Wednesday.

A published report said a search of the house has enabled police to identify a potential fourth attacker as investigators follow the money and supply systems for the three known killers, all of whom died in police raids. Police told The Associated Press as many as six members of the same radical Islamic terror cell may be at large.

"We have put our finger on some extremely dangerous people, men and women," French police

detectives from the Paris Criminal Brigade and a special police anti-terrorism unit seized a scooter there that allowed them to identify "a fourth man" who acted as Coulibaly's accomplice.

The newspaper did not identify the man by name, but said he may have shot and seriously wounded a jogger in nearby Fontenay-aux-Roses on Jan. 7, the same day two friends of Coulibaly, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi, killed 12 people at the offices of Charlie Hebdo.

"The fourth man," who has a lengthy criminal record, may have been involved in that attack, the newspaper reported, adding that he may have already escaped to Syria.

When an AP reporter visited the Gentilly house this week, neighbors said they

fragmentation grenades, handguns and industrial explosives.

In addition to the weapons, investigators are painstakingly following the money trail.

Former drug-dealing associates of Coulibaly told AP he was selling marijuana and hashish in the Paris suburbs as recently as a month ago. Multiple French news accounts have said the Kouachi brothers sold knockoff sporting goods made in China.

Crepin said police believe the killers didn't have the resources to bankroll the terrorist operation on their own. Not only was there the cost of weapons, ammunition and equipment to cover, he said, but also money needed to rent suspected hideouts like the one in Gentilly and to pay their living expenses.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left talks with UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura in Geneva, Jan., 14, 2015. Kerry voiced support for Russia's attempt to convene peace talks in Moscow between representatives of the Syrian government and opposition, and praised de Mistura's campaign to negotiate local cease-fires in Syria.

(Rick Wilking/The New York Times)

Kerry backing Syrian peace talks in Russia

MICHAEL R. GORDON
© 2015 New York Times

GENEVA - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry voiced support for Russia's decision to convene a meeting in Moscow between representatives of the Syrian government and opposition, even though some leading moderate figures have said they do not plan to attend.

"We hope that the Russian efforts could be helpful," Kerry said Wednesday at the start of a meeting in Geneva with Staffan de Mistura, the U.N. envoy for the crisis in Syria.

Kerry also said that he hoped de Mistura's attempts to negotiate local cease-fires in Syria, starting with the contested city of Aleppo, "can have effect." Kerry's support for the Russian and U.N. initiatives comes at a time when the U.S.-led push to negotiate a solution to the bloody Syria conflict has lost momentum. De Mistura's step-by-step strategy to de-escalate the civil war has been attracting growing interest among some Obama administration officials.

Kerry said before the failed peace talks in Geneva last year that the U.S. goal was a transitional government in Syria that did not include President Bashar Assad. But Kerry refrained from making

such an explicit demand in his remarks Wednesday; instead he urged the Syrian leadership to reconsider what it is doing.

"It is time for President Assad, the Assad regime, to put their people first, and to think about the consequences of their actions, which are attracting more and more terrorists to Syria, basically because of their efforts to remove Assad," Kerry said.

Russia, which has backed the Assad government politically and by sending arms, is planning to convene talks among the warring Syrian factions on Jan. 26 in Moscow.

De Mistura is planning to send a representative to the Moscow meeting, a U.S. official said. And there has been speculation that de Mistura's efforts and the Russian initiative could be combined in some way to start a new peace process, or at least to diminish some of the fighting in a conflict that has already killed tens of thousands of people and displaced much of Syria's population.

But several leading figures among the more moderate opponents of Assad have said that they do not believe Russia can be an impartial arbiter, and that they will not take part in the talks in Moscow. □



In this photo, forensic experts examine the car believed to have been used as the escape vehicle by gunmen who attacked the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo's office, in Paris. One week since the unleashing of the lethal Paris terror attacks, investigators on Wednesday Jan. 14, 2015, are still unraveling the complex, overlapping contacts among the perpetrators and their suspected accomplices in an intricate piece of detective work ranging from the Paris suburbs to the Balkans and Turkish-Syrian border.

(AP Photo)

union spokesman Christophe Crepin said. "We are really in a war."

Of special interest is the small attached house on a quiet street in the town of Gentilly south of Paris that Coulibaly rented about two weeks ago.

French police officials refused to say what has been discovered inside the dwelling, but the newspaper Le Parisien reported

had noticed nothing out of the ordinary, with one saying the muscular, 5-foot-5 (165 cm) Coulibaly had been a regular at the local weight room.

Officials said the attackers accumulated a veritable arsenal that included three late-model Kalashnikov assault rifles, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, a machine pistol, smoke grenades and bombs,

"We're dealing with a well-organized mafia-like structure," Crepin said.

However, Peter Neumann, director of the International Center for the Study of Radicalization, King's College London, said that in keeping with the guidelines laid down in an influential handbook for jihadis published in 2004, he believes the Paris attacks were self-financed. □

US House eases bank, Wall Street rules, legislation

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives voted to soften a law that brought the strictest rules for banks and Wall Street since the 1930s, more than six years after the 2008 financial crisis struck.

The bill is one of several that President Barack Obama has threatened to veto as he clashes with newly empowered Republicans who now control all of Congress.

The vote was 271-154 on legislation pushed by the newly bulked-up Republican majority in the House. It now goes to the Senate, where it will likely pass despite strong opposition from liberal Democrats like Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The legislation alters sections of the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial overhaul. Most notably, it would give U.S. banks two extra years — until 2019 — to ensure that their holdings of certain complex and risky securities don't put them out of compliance with a new banking rule.

The bill would revise the so-called Volcker rule, a key part of the financial overhaul law, which would limit banks' riskiest trading bets. That kind of risk-taking on Wall Street helped trigger the 2008 crisis.

In the House, 29 of 188 Democrats joined the near-unanimous 242 Republicans to vote for the measure.

Republicans in the House have been trying for years to chip away at the Dodd-Frank law, which Congress enacted with mostly Democratic support to tighten regulation with an eye to preventing another crisis. Republicans have denounced the law as an excessive expansion of regulatory authority that's stifling the competitiveness of the financial industry.

Some Senate Democrats began raising objections Wednesday as the House acted. □

House votes to overturn Obama immigration actions

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-dominated House of Representatives voted Wednesday to overturn President Barack Obama's key immigration

policy priorities by Republicans who took control of both houses of Congress last week following their sweep of November elections. The president has fought back with veto threats, and immigrant advocates

rest of the budget year, legislation that lawmakers of both parties said was sorely needed to pay for counterterrorism, cybersecurity and other priorities at a moment when the Paris terror attacks have under-

their rank and file accused Obama in turn of reckless and unconstitutional actions on immigration that had to be answered.

"This executive overreach is an affront to the rule of law and to the Constitution itself," said House Speaker John Boehner. "The people made clear that they wanted more accountability from this president, and by our votes here today we will heed their will and we will keep our oath to protect and defend the Constitution."

Rep. Linda Sanchez, a Democrat who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the Republicans were simply pandering to the far right.

"Shame on Republicans for attacking the Latino community," Sanchez said. "Republicans are consciously targeting millions of families who work hard, contribute to our communities and are just trying to give their children a chance at the American dream."

One of the immigration amendments, approved 237-190, would undo executive actions that Obama announced in November to provide temporary deportation relief and work permits to some 4 million immigrants in the country illegally, mostly people who have children who are citizens or legal permanent residents. □



Isabel Aguilar, right, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, on the House Republican's immigration policies. Republicans in the House of Representatives voted Wednesday to overturn President Barack Obama's immigration policies and remove protections for immigrants brought illegally to America as kids. Aguilar's children Adolfo Martinez, 13, center, Miranda Martinez, 8, second from left, and Emilio Martinez, 7, left, listens. Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, D-Ill., with his hands on Adolfo's shoulders.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

policies, approving legislation that would eliminate new deportation protections for millions and expose hundreds of thousands of younger immigrants to expulsion. The legislation represents the latest challenge to Obama's domes-

tic priorities by Republicans who will be crucial to the 2016 presidential election. The 236-191 vote came on a broad bill that would provide \$40 billion to finance the Homeland Security Department through the

scored dire threats.

Democrats accused Republicans of putting that money at risk by attaching veto-bait amendments on immigration, and some Republicans voiced the same concern. But House Republican leaders and most of

Business group:

Cuba deal opens prospects for US companies

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said Wednesday that U.S. efforts to restore diplomatic ties with Cuba and ease curbs on trade presents American companies with "extraordinary opportunities" to boost business by selling everything from cars to computers.

Chamber president and chief executive Thomas Donohue said President Barack Obama's move last month to remake U.S.-Cuba relations was welcome

after more than 50 years of failed interactions with the island nation 90 miles (145 kilometers) from the state of Florida.

"No matter what you are doing, if you are doing it for 50-plus years and it doesn't work you ought to do something else," Donohue told reporters Wednesday after delivering an annual "State of American Business" speech.

Donohue's comments placed him at odds with key Republican lawmakers such as House Speaker John Boehner and Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

The Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy group, spent heavily in the November elections, investing \$35 million to elect business-minded, predominantly Republican lawmakers.

Donohue, who traveled to Havana last year, said the benefits of boosting trade with Cuba outweigh the risks.

"It is time for us to move" on Cuba, Donohue said, noting the decades of pent-up demand in the communist-run country for consumer products such as computers, smartphones and cars.

"Somebody is going to sell" the products to Cubans, Donohue said, "and it's not going to be all us. Look at how many other countries" have already moved to increase trade with Cuba, including Russia and China.

The chamber has long urged increased business ties with Cuba. Within a few weeks of Donohue's visit last year, both Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin traveled to Cuba in trips they said were focused on expanding commercial ties, not taking aim at the U.S. □

Man accused of plotting to attack US Capitol arrested

LISA CORNWELL
Associated Press

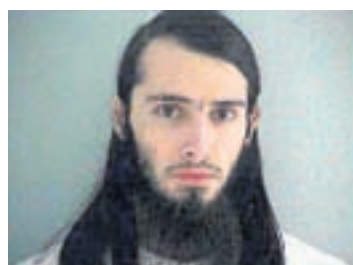
CINCINNATI (AP) — A man who plotted to attack the U.S. congressional building and kill government officials inside it and spoke of his desire to support the Islamic State group was arrested on Wednesday, the FBI said.

A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Ohio charges Christopher Lee Cornell with attempting to kill officers and employees of the United States.

Cornell, also known as Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, was arrested as he took control of a firearm during an undercover FBI operation in Ohio, the FBI said. The public was never in danger in the investigation, said John Barrios, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's Cincinnati division.

A phone message and an email were left Wednesday for attorney Karen Savir, a federal public defender listed in court records as Cornell's attorney. A working phone number could not be found for Cornell's family members.

The complaint alleges that an FBI informant began



In this combination of AP photos, the U.S. Capitol in Washington is seen Wednesday evening, Jan. 14, 2015 (above); This Wednesday Jan. 14, 2015 photo made available by the Butler County Jail shows Christopher Lee Cornell (left). Cornell plotted to attack the U.S. Capitol in Washington and kill government officials inside it and spoke of his desire to support the Islamic State militant group, the FBI said on Wednesday.

(AP Photos)

supplying agents with information about Cornell last year. The informant and Cornell, 20, first began communicating through Twitter in August 2014 and then through an instant messaging platform sepa-

rate from Twitter, according to the complaint.

"I believe we should meet up and make our own group in alliance with the Islamic State here and plan operations ourselves," Cornell wrote in an instant

message, according to the court document.

The Islamic State militant organization, which broke with the al-Qaida network and took control of large parts of Iraq and Syria, has drawn jihadi fighters from

across the Muslim world and Europe. It has been blamed for violence such as the beheadings of foreign captives including a former U.S. soldier turned aid worker and two American journalists. The two met in person in October in Cincinnati and again in November, the complaint states. Cornell told the informant at the November meeting that he considered the members of Congress as enemies and that he intended to conduct an attack on the Capitol, according to the complaint. The document says Cornell discussed his plan for them to travel to Washington and conduct reconnaissance of the security of government buildings including the Capitol before executing "a plan of attack."

Cornell planned for the two to detonate pipe bombs at and near the Capitol and then shoot and kill employees and officials, and Cornell had saved money to fund the attack, according to the complaint.

Cornell was arrested after buying two semi-automatic rifles and about 600 rounds of ammunition, authorities said. □

AP source: Shakeup at Secret Service; 4 execs reassigned

JOSH LEDERMAN
ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four of the highest-ranking Se-

cret Service executives have been reassigned following a series of security mishaps and scathing reports questioning leader-

ship within the agency, the Secret Service said Wednesday.

The agency's assistant directors for investigations, protective operations, technology and public affairs have all been reassigned within the Secret Service, which protects the president, his family and others.

Acting Director Joseph P. Clancy said in a statement Wednesday that he was making leadership changes based on a December report from an independent panel that described the agency as "insular" and "starved for leadership."

"Change is necessary to gain a fresh perspective on how we conduct business," Clancy said. "I am certain any of our senior executives will be productive and valued assets either in other

positions at the Secret Service or the department."

The four officials are: Dale Pupillo, who led protective operations; Paul Morrissey, who oversaw the agency's investigative mission; Jane Murphy, who was governmental and public affairs chief; and Mark Copanzz, who headed up technology and the tools for mission support. Details of their new posts were not released Wednesday.

The reassignments are the biggest shift in Secret Service leadership since former Director Julia Pierson was forced to resign last year.

Her ouster came after a man armed with a knife was able to get over a White House fence and run deep into the executive mansion before being subdued and details of a previous presidential secu-

rity breach were disclosed. The Washington Post first reported the staff shake-up Wednesday.

The independent panel, which investigated the agency's leadership and practices in the wake of the September incident and the disclosure of a previously unreported security breach earlier that month, also recommended hiring a new director from outside the agency.

A permanent director has not been named.

That report was the second critical review of the agency. In November the Homeland Security Department, which oversees the Secret Service, released an internal investigation about the fence-scaling incident, which concluded that poor training, staff and a series of missteps led to the breach. □

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10 dead when Texas prison bus skids off highway, hits train

BETSY BLANEY
DAVID WARREN

Associated Press

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — A prison bus skidded off an icy Texas highway, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing freight train Wednesday, killing eight inmates and two corrections officers, including the bus driver, authorities said.

The overpass on an interstate highway was slick with ice Wednesday morning when the Texas Department of Criminal Justice bus left the roadway, just west of Odessa, according to Sheriff Mark Donaldson. The prisoners, who did not have seat belts, were handcuffed together in pairs, officials said. Some of them were ejected from the bus after it struck the train, said Trooper Elizabeth Barney of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

An earlier accident on the overpass may have contributed to the prison bus

losing control, Donaldson said.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice confirmed the 10 deaths in a statement, adding that four prisoners and one corrections officer were also injured.

After the accident around 7:30 a.m., the white bus came to rest on its side, next to the railroad tracks, crumpled with heavy damage to its front and undercarriage.

The top of the bus was caved inward.

The Union Pacific freight train with four locomotives and 58 cars came to a stop soon after. None of the cars derailed, but two containers at the rear of the train were damaged, said Mark Davis, a railroad spokesman.

The containers were carrying hundreds of parcels and packages, many of which were strewn along the tracks.

No Union Pacific employees were injured.



Officials investigate the scene of a prison transport bus crash, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, in Penwell, Texas. Law enforcement officials said the bus carrying prisoners and corrections officers fell from an overpass in West Texas and crashed onto train tracks below, killing at least 10 people.

(AP Photo/Odessa American, Mark Sterkel)

Top US pro-gun group NRA sues Pennsylvania cities for gun laws

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

America's most powerful pro-gun group is using a new Pennsylvania state law that allows them to challenge local gun control measures, filing lawsuits against ordinances in three cities, including requirements that owners report lost or stolen firearms.

The cities said they will fight the National Rifle Association, contending the measures are a sensible way to address deadly gun violence.

"This should be a wake-up call for citizens across Pennsylvania," Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto said. "We're not taking away anyone's right to own a gun, or 10 or 20 guns. What we're saying is when a gun is lost or stolen, you've got to report it. Too many people are being killed in the streets of Pittsburgh and other cities with stolen guns."

The lawsuits add a new dimension to America's divisive debates over gun control. Advocates of

tougher gun control legislation point to a string of mass shootings around the country and gun-related crime in urban areas. Gun rights activists worry stricter laws are a pathway to encroaching on the right to bear arms enshrined in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The controversy in Pennsylvania, which has a strong tradition of hunting and gun ownership, centers on a 40-year-old state law prohibiting municipalities from approving ordinances that regulate the ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of guns or ammunition. Scores of cities and towns ignored the prohibition, and gun rights groups said the local measures were difficult to challenge because judges have ruled that plaintiffs could not prove harm.

Under a state law that took effect last week, gun owners no longer have to show they have been harmed by an ordinance to win in court.

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Holiday Shopping Hiccup: US retail sales fell in December

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the job market on a roll and gas prices falling, consumers are spending away, right?

Not quite. Americans actually cut back last month after ramping up spending in November, perplexing analysts who had expected strong retail sales in December in light of rising job growth and sinking gas prices.

Sales fell a seasonally adjusted 0.9 percent from November to December, the

building materials and restaurants, sales dropped 0.4 percent after rising 0.6 percent in November. Online and mail-order sales fell 0.3 percent, the most since April.

November's strong sales might have caused shoppers to pull back last month, economists said. Before slipping in December, for example, auto sales had soared in November.

And the financial benefit of falling gas prices can take time to register with consumers. It may take a

November and December data but exclude gas, autos, and restaurant spending, were the highest since 2011, according to the National Retail Federation and some independent economists.

Still, stock investors were disappointed by Wednesday's report. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 266 points in mid-day trading.

Economists cited several reasons why retail sales likely fell off in December: — Retailers engaged in heavy discounting, which



In this Dec. 26, 2014, photo, customers shop at Nordstrom Rack in Schaumburg, Ill. Big discounts, and crowds, were found at post-Christmas sales around the US. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for December on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Commerce Department said Wednesday. It was the largest drop since January. Much of the decline didn't actually reflect a diminished consumer appetite: Americans spent less at the gas station because of those lower fuel prices — a decline that's included in the retail sales figures.

That said, sales in most other categories lost ground, too.

Yet analysts see no need to worry yet. Most think consumers will bounce back in coming months on the back of healthy job gains and rising confidence. Economists say many temporary factors likely held back sales in December.

Excluding the volatile categories of gas, autos,

month or two of persistent savings before consumers begin to spend the wind-fall.

With hiring still healthy, consumer confidence rising and households reducing their debt loads, most economists expect Americans to spend at a healthy pace this year, supporting solid economic growth.

"This isn't the start of a collapse in activity ... as that doesn't fit with the strength of employment growth and consumer confidence," Paul Diggie, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. "As such, retail sales will strengthen again before too long."

And holiday retail sales overall, which include both

lowers the dollar value of sales. The government's figures aren't adjusted for inflation. When consumer spending figures adjusted for price changes are released next month, they will probably paint a better picture, economists said.

— The holiday shopping season is getting stretched at both ends. Many stores launched the holiday season as early as October and even pulled forward Black Friday promotions days before the traditional Thanksgiving weekend. That likely led to weaker December sales and resulted in the declining importance of a single shopping day. In addition, gift card sales aren't recorded until they're redeemed.□

Caesars' bet on better days led to bankruptcy for group

KIMBERLY PIERCEALL

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Financial problems plaguing Caesars Entertainment and its casino empire have the company considering a trip to bankruptcy court, possibly as early as Thursday.

If all goes according to the company's plan, drawn up with its most senior creditors, it should be business as usual for customers —Caesars' doors will remain open, the slot machines will still sing, chips will rest atop tables. "Caesars is, in a certain sense, a Nevada version of 'too big to fail,'" said Michael Green, a history professor with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It's still a gamble.

U.S. casino-hotel companies are dependent on extra cash in a person's pocket, but perhaps none more than Caesars, which waded into the recent economic downturn already burdened by more debt than any of them — a by-product of a buyout in January 2008 that was largely a wager using other people's money.

Regardless of any the maneuvers, "the fundamentals were not there to support the amount of debt that they had," said Keith Foley, an analyst with Moody's Investors Service.

WHAT HAPPENED

Apollo Global Management LLC and TPG Capital LP did what a lot of private equity firms were doing at the time when money and loans were easy to come by, buying companies with promise — relying mostly on debt — to add to its portfolio. The gambling industry looked promising.

The deal to buy Caesars (then known as Harrah's) was first announced in 2006 during the heyday of Vegas tourism and development. But the deal didn't close until January 2008, several months before Lehman Brothers would go bankrupt, shaking the economy to its core. And it was a nearly \$30 billion deal with the two firms taking on more than \$10 billion of existing debt and relying on several billion more in bonds to pay for the company.

WHAT NOW

Among its casino peers, Caesars' empire remains the largest, employing some 68,000 people worldwide at more than 50 casino-hotels, including Caesars Palace on the Las Vegas Strip.

While Caesars Entertainment has seen a steady \$8.6 billion or so in revenue since 2009, it's been outpaced by Las Vegas Sands Corp., which went all-in in Macau, China, and grew every year to post revenue of \$14.5 billion in 2013. Las Vegas Sands made a \$2.3 billion profit that year. Caesars lost \$2.9 billion.

Caesars has lost money each year for the last five years.

WHAT'S NEXT

The company faces irked creditors, a few who have tried to force the casino giant into bankruptcy against its will this week. Others have sued, claiming the company ransacked Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. of most of its valuable assets. Caesars called the claims meritless and alleges some of its holdout creditors are hoping for the company's demise in order to win wagers predicting as much. Despite the acrimony, the company says that after months of negotiations it has more than 60 percent of the holders of its first-priority debt on board with its plan.

The plan would shed \$10 billion in debt from its weighed-down operations division, leaving it with \$8.6 billion and winnowing its annual \$1.7 billion in interest payments to \$450 million. Senior creditors who OK'd the plan would get cash and new debt to make them whole.□



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US Financial Front:

Federal Reserve survey finds moderate economic growth

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy was growing at a moderate pace in December and early January, helped by gains in sales of autos and other consumer products, but a big drop in oil prices was starting to have an impact in Texas and other energy regions, the Federal Reserve reported Wednesday.

The Fed said business contacts in its 12 regional banking districts were seeing "modest" or "moderate" growth. General merchandise retailers in the New York area reported largely sluggish holiday sales while high-end merchandise in Philadelphia and San Francisco did well.

Payrolls grew in a variety of sectors but significant wage gains were seen only by workers with specialized technical skills.

The Fed report, known as the beige book for the color of its cover, will form the basis of discussion at the Fed's next meeting on Jan. 27-28. The Fed at its last meeting in December said it expected to remain "patient" as it decides when to begin raising interest rates. Many economists say the country's moderate growth will allow the Fed to stay patient through the first half of this year with June the most likely date for the first increase in its benchmark rate, which has been at a record low near zero for the past six years.

Analysts said the latest beige book struck a more subdued tone than the December report, noting that holiday sales were disappointing in many regions. A government report Wednesday showed that retail sales fell 0.9 percent in December, the biggest drop in 11 months.

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the new Fed report was more muted than the December survey.

The Fed's "business contacts suggest that while economic activity continued to expand in the New Year, the pace slowed," she said in a research note. The new report, based on interviews with business contacts around the country, found several indications that the recent sharp slide in oil prices was starting to have an impact on the economy.

The Dallas Fed said that some energy firms in its district were reporting hiring freezes and layoffs with demand for oilfield services falling.

"Outlooks for the first half of 2015 are very uncertain and significantly weaker than the prior reporting period," the Dallas Fed said. It said oilfield service firms were expecting anywhere from a 15 percent to 40 percent decline in demand for their services.

Many private economists believe the big drop in oil prices will provide a boost to the overall economy by giving consumers more money to spend on other products but they have cautioned that energy-producing regions could suffer from job cutbacks. The Atlanta Fed said that lower gas prices had boosted the sales of larger vehicles but the St. Louis Fed said that some auto dealers in its region were seeing excess inventories of luxury cars.

The Fed said that reports of rising wage pressures were less prevalent in the latest survey than in its previous report although there was continued upward pressure for high-skilled labor in such areas as high-tech. □



In this Jan. 12, 2015 photo, construction continues on a commercial property in Peabody, Mass. The Federal Reserve released its latest 'Beige Book' survey of economic conditions on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)



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American Living:

Property For Sale Away From It All (Once Occupied by a Missile)



Jim Moore, the listing agent for a decommissioned missile silo outside of Roswell, N.M., locks an entrance to the property. The silo, which was once the home of an Atlas-F intercontinental ballistic missile with a warhead over 100 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in World War II, is for sale.

(Rick Scibelli Jr./The New York Times)

RICK ROJAS

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ROSWELL, N.M. - Past the city limits, where the main street with the UFO museum and the McDonald's in the shape of a flying saucer gives way to a lonely highway coursing through an ocean of scrubby terrain, the green door pops up like a periscope.

Jim Moore, a real estate agent here, sells mostly ranch houses in tidy neighborhoods or stretches of undeveloped land in a place where that is abundant. But for some reason, he said, when an odd listing comes around, it tends to fall to him. And on a recent morning, he pulled off the highway onto a gravel path leading straight to his latest example.

The 25-acre parcel, a 20-mile drive from the city's downtown, has a worn trailer where the former owner lived and then that green door, which opens on a stairwell heading deep underground. There, visitors who do not fear enclosed spaces will find a marvel of military architecture that has had Moore's phone ringing with inquiries from across the country: a missile silo, decommissioned decades ago.

From a real estate perspective, it is a fixer-upper, to put it mildly, one that appeals to a small and idiosyncratic cut of potential buyers (one of whom has already signed a contract, placing it off the market for

II. The missile was taken out of service after just a few years, and left behind was a subterranean lair worthy of a Bond villain, burrowing 10 stories down and capable of withstanding a nuclear blast.



A graffiti-strewn room inside a decommissioned missile silo that is for sale, outside Roswell, N.M. Over the years the site has become dilapidated, showing damage from the time it was left unattended and became a hangout for teenagers and a source for vandals scavenging for scrap.

(Rick Scibelli Jr./The New York Times)

the moment). At the height of the Cold War, the site had been the home of an Atlas-F missile, an intercontinental ballistic weapon with a warhead over 100 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in World War

Over the years the site has become dilapidated, showing damage from the time it was left unattended and became a hangout for teenagers and a source for vandals scavenging for scrap.

Still, in his listing for the site

(price: \$295,000), Moore described it as having "lots of potential uses." Would-be buyers agree, and have come to him with all kinds of ambitious ideas: Marijuana growers and hydroponic gardeners looking for a secure farm, the owner of a document storage company who proposed turning the silo into a cylindrical archive, starting at the bottom and working his way up. And there have been plenty of what he called "doomsday types," looking for a virtually impenetrable bunker for when things above ground turn sour.

"I've had a lot of calls, a lot of promises," said Moore, 67, noting he has had more than a half-dozen people express serious interest only to not follow through. "They'd love to have it, but it seems like they lack the money." Roswell, a city of 48,000, has a reputation that extends far beyond southeastern New Mexico, known for the extraterrestrials that the government insists did not land here

Force base, closed in 1967, that attracted the military to build the dozen missile sites, including this one, that ring Roswell. In all, 72 Atlas-F missile sites were built, scattered in mostly remote locations around the country, close to Air Force bases that could supply them with forces.

The military designed the missiles and the bunkers that housed them with the utmost urgency, working at a moment when the concern over national security was so severe that it bordered on panic, said Gretchen Heefner, a history professor at Northeastern University in Boston and author of the book "The Missile Next Door."

"They had no doubt that this could be it," she said. "This was what the Cold War was going to hinge on." With doors weighing thousands of pounds and yards-thick walls of concrete and steel, the silos that were constructed to house these missiles were not going away.

"In reality, these structures, the way they were built, will last well over 1,000 years," said Larry Hall, a developer who has worked with the sites, comparing them to fortified European castles.

In the years after the sites were decommissioned and sold off to private owners, plenty fell into disrepair, and some filled with water. Still, they became coveted by a certain set wanting to prepare for whatever disaster might come.

"If these were engineered to withstand a nuclear strike, there's protection from hurricanes, tornadoes, radiation," Hall said. "It's the one-size-fits-all appeal." Hall transformed one silo in Kansas into luxury "survival condos," with a pool and spa, theater, shooting range, rock-climbing wall, dog park and five different power sources. Also on hand is hydroponic food, biometric locks and a minor surgery center should residents need to ride out an apocalypse. □

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Iran charges, and will try, Post reporter

RICK GLADSTONE
MICHAEL R. GORDON

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The Washington Post's correspondent in Iran, who has been imprisoned since July for unspecified reasons, has been formally charged and will be tried in a Revolutionary Court, the country's official Islamic Republic News Agency said Wednesday. It did not describe the charges or say when the trial would begin.

The announcement essentially confirmed what the family of the correspondent, Jason Rezaian, a U.S. citizen of Iranian descent from California, had said more than a month ago. But the timing of the announcement was curious, coming the same day that Secretary of State John Kerry was meeting in Geneva with his Iranian counterpart, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a prelude to the next round of talks on Iran's nuclear program.

Kerry raised the issue of Rezaian and other Americans held in Iran during meetings with Zarif, a senior State Department official told reporters traveling with Kerry.

Asked about the announcement, the official said: "We are not going to speculate on the timing and how that came about."

Earlier in the day, Zarif - who knows Rezaian personally and has described him as "a fair reporter" - gave no hint of any movement in the case.

"This is a judicial matter, so we will have to wait for the judiciary to move forward," Zarif said. □

New issue of Charlie Hebdo sells out quickly

ELAINE GANLEY
JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Parisians lined up Wednesday to empty the newsstands of the first issue of Charlie Hebdo, a week after Islamic extremists attacked the satirical newspaper's office, and French justice officials began cracking down by arresting dozens of people who glorified terrorism or made racist or anti-Semitic remarks.

The editors of the publication again put a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on the cover, and it quickly sold out by early morning around the capital and elsewhere, with long lines and scuffles at kiosks. Disappointed buyers were told to come back Thursday when more of the increased print run of 5 million copies will be available.

A leader of Yemen's al-Qaida branch officially claimed responsibility for the attacks by two gunmen that left 12 dead at the weekly publication, saying in a video posted online that the slayings came in "vengeance for the prophet." The newspaper had received repeated threats for lampooning Muhammad.

A third attacker killed five other people, bringing the total number of dead in the Jan. 7-9 spasm of violence to 17 before all the gunmen died in police raids.

On alert for new attacks, France deployed thousands of police and soldiers around the country, and they moved to quash any racist remarks or praise for terrorists.

The scale of security measures is raising questions in some quarters about



Jean Paul Bierlein reads the latest issue of Charlie Hebdo outside a newsstand in Nice, south-eastern France, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. In an emotional act of defiance, Charlie Hebdo resurrected its irreverent and often provocative newspaper, featuring a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on the cover that drew immediate criticism and threats of more violence. The black letters on the front page read: "All is forgiven."

(AP Photo/Lionel Cironneau)

whether some freedoms will be impinged upon.

At least 54 people were arrested for hate speech or other acts insulting religious faiths, or for cheering the men who carried out the attacks.

The new issue of Charlie Hebdo features the prophet, a tear rolling down his cheek, holding a placard that says "Je Suis Charlie." The saying has swept France and the world, with the irreverent newspaper being embraced as a symbol of freedom of speech. Prime Minister Manuel Valls held up his copy after the weekly Cabinet meeting — but strategically placed his hand over the prophet's face.

Muslims believe their faith forbids depictions of the prophet, and some reacted with dismay — and occasional anger — to the new cover. Some who had supported Charlie Hebdo

after the attacks felt betrayed and others feared the cartoon would trigger yet more violence.

Defending his caricature of the prophet on the latest cover, cartoonist Renald Luzier argued that there should be no exceptions to freedom of expression.

He said when the weekly was threatened before, the reaction was often: "Yes, but you shouldn't do that (publish cartoons of Muhammad). Yes, but you deserved that."

"There should be no more 'Yes, but,'" he insisted.

In Turkey, a court in a south-eastern city ordered a ban on access to websites showing the cover of Charlie Hebdo's new edition after a lawyer filed a petition saying it would endanger public order, the state-run Anadolu News Agency reported.

The issue was banned in Senegal, in west Africa,

and the spokesman for the Brussels prosecutor's office, Laurens Dumont, said four shops in one neighborhood were threatened in one Brussels neighborhood if they sold it.

Egypt and Iran condemned the "provocative" publication. Egypt's top Islamic authority, Dar al-Ifta, had warned against publishing the cover after its content became known Monday. President Francois Hollande, speaking aboard the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle to members of the military, said he was sending the warship to the Middle East as part of the ramped-up effort to fight terrorism.

The situation "justifies the presence of our aircraft carrier," Hollande said. France is already carrying out airstrikes over Iraq as part of an international coalition fighting the Islamic State group. □

Sudden resignation of president will test Italy's premier

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO
© 2015 New York Times

ROME - President Giorgio Napolitano resigned on Wednesday, and the intense political maneuvering to choose his successor may become a minefield for Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

For almost nine years, Napolitano, 89, has been a vital anchor of political stability in Italy. When his original seven-year term was ending in 2013, the members of Parliament and regional delegates responsible for choosing his successor deadlocked in ballot after

ballot, until he reluctantly agreed to be re-elected, the first president of Italy to do so. Napolitano repeatedly made clear that because of his age, he did not plan to serve all seven years of his second term. He chose the day after the end of Italy's six-month turn in the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union to resign.

Renzi thanked Napolitano on Wednesday, praising his "extraordinary political intelligence," and said that he expected a new president to be chosen by the end of the month.

Deploping the political stalemate that led to Napolitano's continuation in office two years ago, Renzi said there were "many men and women who could fill that role" and added that "we must not fail" to choose one as president. Renzi, 40, formerly the mayor of Florence, took control of Italy's center-left Democratic Party in a deft political coup in December 2013, and he became prime minister in February. Getting lawmakers and delegates to back his preferred candidate for president will be a new

test of Renzi's political acumen, measuring his ability to quell dissent in his own party and attract the opposition votes he will need for the required two-thirds majority in an early ballot. (If the election goes past three ballots, the requirement changes to a simple majority.)

A deadlock like the one in 2013 would seriously undermine Renzi's standing.

Matteo Salvini, a lawmaker from the opposition Northern League, said on Wednesday that he hoped the new president would be selected from outside

Parliament - "someone who had done something for Italy" - and that the post would not become a bargaining chip for Renzi to secure the continued support of Forza Italia, the center-right party led by the former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. The lawmakers and delegates are scheduled to meet on Jan. 29 to begin the first round of voting for Napolitano's successor. Several possible names have emerged, including two past prime ministers, Romano Prodi and Giuliano Amato, but there is no clear front-runner. □

Fearing 'total chaos' in Libya, UN plans new peace talks

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE
© 2015 New York Times

GENEVA - The United Nations said Wednesday it was starting a new round of talks here aimed at ending the chaos and violence in Libya, as international concern grows over the widening influence of Muslim extremists there.

The talks, aimed at reaching a political settlement, including a national unity government, are seen as a last chance to end months of fighting among rival militias that has plunged Libya into deepening insecurity and economic chaos and destabilized surrounding countries, Bernardino León, special representative of the secretary general and head of the United Nations Mission in Libya, said in Geneva.

"It's going to be a long process; it's going to be



Bernardino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), informs the media before a new round of political dialogue that seeks to end Libya's deepening political and security crisis during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

(AP Photo/Keystone/Salvatore Di Nolfi)

difficult," León said. "We are not expecting to have a breakthrough tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. There is a gap between the parties, which is becoming

more complicated; there is more fighting on the ground."

León called for the talks after two months of consultations with a wide variety of groups, including the government of Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni, now based in the eastern city of Tobruk, and the rival Libya Dawn movement, which seized control of the capital, Tripoli, in August. Other participants in the talks include representatives of some militias and important municipalities, León said.

Despite the lengthy preparations, some important political actors have not committed to the talks, though the door remains open, León said.

León stressed the critical importance of reaching a settlement now. □

Hong Kong's leader says concessions could lead to anarchy

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HONG KONG - The embattled leader of Hong Kong's government warned on Wednesday that concessions to pro-democracy demonstrators could invite anarchy, as he laid out measures to defuse public anger over housing and inequality that resounded with the protesters who seized streets for 11 weeks last year.

Leung Chun-ying, the chief executive of Hong

Kong, offered the proposals in his first major policy package since the street demonstrations ended last month. Since Leung came to office in 2012, he has repeatedly vowed to redress the city's housing shortages and narrow the growing divide between rich and poor. But the protests echoed a view, particularly widespread among the young, that Leung is beholden to the city's pro-Beijing business elite. On

Wednesday, Leung sought to counter the discontent over economic issues while ruling out any retreat from government proposals for changing the city's electoral rules. Those proposals, put forward by the Chinese national legislature on Aug. 31, were the trigger for the protests last year; it would give residents a direct vote for the chief executive, but only from among two or three candidates screened by a commit-

tee dominated by members loyal to Beijing. Leung said he would not bow to opponents' demands to change the plan. "The rule of law is the foundation of Hong Kong," Leung said in a televised address. "The democratic development of Hong Kong must, therefore, be underpinned by the same. As we pursue democracy, we should act in accordance with the law, or Hong Kong will degenerate into anarchy."

On the economic concerns, Leung called housing "the most critical of all livelihood issues in Hong Kong" and said, "Sustained economic development will provide our young people with more and better employment opportunities and chances of upward mobility."

But supporters of the recent demonstrations were skeptical that Leung could make good on his promises. □

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Boko Haram increases attacks as Nigeria elections loom

MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press

Boko Haram, Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremist group, is increasing the ferocity and tempo of its attacks, destabilizing Africa's most populous nation as it prepares for elections. Girls as young as 10 are being used as suicide bombers. There have been daring attacks on military barracks in Nigeria and Cameroon. The group, which wants to impose Shariah across the country and is increasing its territory under a self-proclaimed Islamic caliphate, recently massacred hundreds of civilians, with death toll estimates ranging up to 2,000. President Goodluck Jonathan, the front-runner in the Feb. 14 presidential and legislative elections, launched his campaign last week with no reference to the seizure of a key military base at Baga, near the border of Cameroon and Chad. As soldiers fled the base on Jan. 3, Boko Haram went on a killing



Children stand near the scene of an explosion in a mobile phone market in Potiskum, Nigeria. Two female suicide bombers targeted the busy marketplace earlier in the week.

(AP Photo/Adamu Adamu)

spree, reportedly drowning many in Lake Chad. Amnesty International called it the deadliest massacre in Boko Haram's 5-year insurgency. Survivors have described

hundreds of fighters riding into town in a column led by an armored personnel carrier stolen from the military, on the backs of pickup trucks and on motorcycles, firing rocket-propelled

grenades and assault rifles and hurling homemade bombs that set buildings ablaze. A military officer said that more than 10 days later, Baga remains under the control of Boko Haram.

"We have not heard any order deploying soldiers to return to Baga for now," he said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared being punished by his superiors for talking to the press. "As a matter of fact, most of the soldiers that managed to escape from Baga had redeployed back to their mother stations of deployment." The marginalized part of the country is semi-arid desert that turns to lush forest around Lake Chad and is home to traders, subsistence farmers, herdsman and fishermen. It includes a couple of the biggest cattle markets on the continent. Since August, when the insurgents declared they were recreating an ancient Islamic caliphate that included parts of Cameroon, Chad and Niger, they have seized or consolidated control of more than 10 percent of Nigerian territory, mostly in the state of Borno where the group was created.

US gives LRA commander, war crimes suspect to Ugandans

RISDEL KASASIRA
KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — U.S. Special Forces in Obo, Central African Republic, handed over to Ugandan troops a Lord's Resistance Army commander who is charged with war crimes, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said Wednesday. He will be transferred for trial at the International Criminal Court, according to a Ugandan military official. U.S. Embassy spokesman Daniel Travis confirmed the handover of Dominic

Ongwen, who had been held by American troops since Jan. 6. Travis said it was "a major step forward" securing the future of LRA-affected areas of East and Central Africa. The LRA, led by Joseph Kony, began in Uganda in the 1980s as a tribal uprising and has been terrorizing and brutalizing civilians across a swath of Central Africa. Ugandan army spokesman Lt. Col. Ankunda said Uganda will transfer Ongwen to Central Afri-

can Republic authorities for transfer to The Hague, Netherlands, for trial of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the ICC. Ugandan troops are a major part of the African Union Regional Task Force in Central African Republic, which has a weak government and has been rocked by internal fighting in recent years. The United Nations, African Union, Uganda and United States consulted on the decision to try Ongwen at the ICC, authorities said.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the U.S. transferred Ongwen to the custody of the African Union task force Wednesday morning. Harf confirmed Tuesday that Ongwen would be delivered to the ICC. Although Uganda wanted to try him itself, the U.S. had concerns about how Ongwen would be treated there and whether high standards of detention and prosecution would be

upheld, other officials said on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the diplomacy. Ongwen, Kony and three others who have reportedly since died were charged by the ICC. The court's warrant of arrest for Ongwen lists seven counts of alleged individual criminal responsibility including crimes against humanity, enslavement, murder and inhumane acts of inflicting serious bodily injury.

Amid its struggles; Puerto Rico enjoys drop in crime

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The crime wave that marred Puerto Rico's image in recent years appears to have ebbed, with homicides decreasing and both residents and police adopting new measures to track problems and improve public safety. The island of 3.7 million people had 681 homicides in 2014, the lowest number in nearly 15 years and a drop of 40 percent since murders reached a record high of 1,164 three years ago. Violent crime overall fell 17 percent over the same period.

report suspected crimes to police. So far, it's been downloaded more than 40,000 times and has been used to send in more than 6,800 tips. "The people have said enough is enough," Romero said. "Puerto Rico got fed up with the level of crime." 2011 was seen by many as a low point for Puerto Rico. Not only did homicides peak, but the FBI expanded its involvement in the U.S. territory after a Justice Department report found widespread problems in the island's police force, including corruption, illegal killings and civil rights viola-

other federal agencies also flew in personnel from the U.S. mainland to help bring Puerto Rico's crime wave under control. As a result, the island has experienced a "dramatic" improvement in public safety since 2011, said Carlos Cases, the FBI special agent in charge for the island. "The streets of Puerto Rico at the time, especially in the San Juan metropolitan area, were essentially no man's land," he said. Use of the crime-tip mobile app, led by an anti-crime organization known as "Basta Ya PR" meaning "Enough is enough, Puerto



Tourists disembark from a cruise ship in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015. The island has seen a 40 percent drop in homicides since murders reached a record high of 1,164 three years ago.

Credit for the decline goes to a number of factors, from increased efforts to prevent crime to a broader trend of declining violence across the United States and the Caribbean. Luis Romero, whose son was fatally stabbed during a holdup in 2011, is among the Puerto Ricans who have helped turn the tide. Following the death of his 20-year-old son, Romero used his skills as the owner of a telecommunications services company to create a mobile app that allows users to anonymously

tions. Seeking to crack down on the most serious crimes, the FBI and other federal agencies took charge of cases that involved armed suspects with previous criminal records. Suspects detained by federal agents are subject to being held without bond, and the system has a 97 percent conviction rate. The FBI also expanded its authority in handling carjacking cases, a key to deterring criminals from stealing cars to commit other crimes. The bureau and

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

Rico," has been part of the change. The app allows people to easily alert police to suspected crimes such as assault, robbery, domestic violence and child abuse. "The cooperation of citizens has been key in helping us solve murders and seize weapons," said Lt. Ricardo Haddock, sub director of criminal investigations in the north municipality of Carolina. "Everything's so much faster with technology now. People are cooperating more than ever." □



Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, left, talks with Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, during an event to launch in Colombia an app providing free basic Internet service via cellphone connections, at the presidential palace in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.
(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

Facebook's Zuckerberg launches free Internet project in Colombia

JOSHUA GOODMAN
BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press
BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg traveled to Colombia on Wednesday to bring his global Internet-access initiative to Latin America. In an event with President Juan Manuel Santos, the billionaire explained how even low-end mobile phone users in Colombia will now be able to access for free a limited number of websites thanks to a partnership with a local cellular phone provider, Tigo. Colombia is the fourth country where Zuckerberg is rolling out Internet.org, which aims to bring the Internet to the two-thirds of the world's population that lacks access. It's also available in Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania.

It was Zuckerberg's first time in Colombia and he took advantage of the one-day visit to hold the first-ever town hall meeting with Facebook users outside the United States. The 30-year-old CEO answered questions about free speech, Internet connectivity and what he sees as media misconceptions about his company. The town hall held in Bogota was closed to the media but streamed online on Facebook. Asked how much he knew about Colombia before his visit, Zuckerberg said he's

learned a bit about the country's biodiversity and that he's a big fan of Colombian pop singer Shakira.

"I'm a really big fan. Yeah I guess that's about it. I don't speak Spanish but I like her Spanish music," said Zuckerberg, laughing, before moving on to the next question.

He was asked about his recent Facebook post about the Paris terrorist attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in which he urged people to reject "a group of extremists trying to silence the voices and opinions of everyone else around the world." Zuckerberg said all terrorist attacks are "horrible" but added that he chose to address the Paris attack in particular because it was an attack on freedom of expression and on people's ability to speak out.

He said he mostly speaks out on topics related to Facebook's mission of connecting the world and giving everyone a voice — and this was one such case.

Facebook operates in most of the world's countries, and more than 80 percent of its over 1 billion users are outside of the U.S. and Canada.

The social network follows the laws of countries it operates in, which can mean not showing content on its site that is banned in a particular country, even if



RAGE Silver Boutique Opens New Location at Royal Plaza Mall!



ORANJESTAD - RAGE Silver Boutique opened their first location in 1998 and has expanded now to three stores; Renaissance Marketplace and Royal Plaza Mall in downtown and Palm Beach Plaza Mall at the high rise hotels area. They are known for their great extensive selection of sterling silver jewelry from all over the world, of which most pieces are hand selected by the owner herself, Marny.

During the recent Grand Opening of their 3rd location at the Royal Plaza Mall, they introduced the 'Shop in Shop' of the brand Uno de 50 from Spain. Silver plated jewelry with leather, Swarovski crystals or men made stones. Originally they only made 50 pieces per item, which is why the name "Uno de 50" meaning "one of 50". But now that the line is expanding tremendously all over the world, of course this is no longer the case. They are opening stores and Shop

in shops in Europe, Asia, US and now also in the Caribbean. Each piece is hand-crafted and has a name or saying that goes with it. This is a must see collection.

They carry Silver designer lines like Tisento, Chamilia, Crislu, Rebecca and many more....But also gold plated jewelry to cater to those gold lovers. Gold plated over silver with CZ; rings, necklaces bracelets and a big variety of earrings. These items are great for all ages and also great as gifts. Also added to their collection at this new store is Melinda Maria. A gold plated line from LA of statement pieces with CZ and semi-precious stones.

Marny travels all over the world to look for new trends and collections to keep her customers intrigued and excited. For those who want a more complete look, you can also find handbags by GIGI New York, all made of high quality leather. Sunglasses by



Guess and watches from Vince Camuto. Not to forget, nice plain silver pieces with or without stones and trendy Stainless steel jewelry for woman and men. They invite you to come and see what they, Marny and her husband, have designed and created over the years. All stores carry different collections so make sure you pass by at least two of their stores.

As they also carry more watch brands like Guess, GC, Fossil, Storm and Nautica. Jewelry from a local designer from Curaçao BECK gold filled and/or plated with Swarovski crystals and semi-precious stones. Guess jewelry and Buddha to Buddha by a Dutch designer all hand-made in Indonesia. Murano glass pieces by Millefiore, all made in Italy and

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Palm Beach Plaza Mall Mon-Sat 10am-10pm Sun 5-10pm. □



USFOL Staff and Dutch Parliamentarians Visit SEDA



WILLEMSTAD/ORANJESTAD - On January 5, 2015, the U.S. Forward Operating Location (USFOL) and U.S. Consulate General hosted a delegation of 11 members of the Dutch parliament for an introduction to the USFOL Community Relations program. The visit focused on the 14 year history of community projects completed by the USFOL, highlighting the diversity of projects ranging from painting to donating school supplies. The parliament members were also able to visit the site of a longtime USFOL partner organization, Fundashon Sentro di Dama (SEDA), which is a non-profit organization focused on supporting women, children, and teens in crisis. The parliamentary delegation asked many engaging questions throughout the event and applauded the tremendous efforts of organizations such as SEDA and the continued community involvement of the USFOL. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

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Marriott Invites Guests to Share Their Adventures with GoPro!

Continued from Front

"The Marriott Hotels continually demonstrates leadership in bringing new travel-enhancing experiences to their guests and the GoPro HERO4 cameras are the perfect device for their guests to capture their Caribbean and Latin American vacations," said GoPro Senior Vice President of Marketing, Paul Crandell. "Resort destinations in tropical locations are where passionate people go to enjoy amazing new experiences and we can't wait to see the GoPro photos and videos that Marriott guests create during their stay."

Guests are encouraged to submit their GoPro photo and video content across social platforms using the hashtags #GoPro, #travelbrilliantly and #viaje genial for the chance to be featured on the Marriott Hotels' website, www.travelbrilliantly.com/gopro. The submitted content will be curated to share across Marriott International's social media channels and the in-room entertainment system at our participating



Marriott Guests document their fun in the sun on a waterslide with a GoPro HERO4 Camera, made available for complimentary use during their vacation by Marriott Hotels.

(Handout Photo)

hotels. To celebrate the launch of the program, guests' content will also be selected from social media channels by Marriott Hotels to win prizes such as vaca-

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Each Child received a new pair for their end of the year

celebration!

The woman who represented Orchid Casino in the pictures is: Joyceline Geerman,

Human Resources Manager of the Orchid Casino was on hand for the event to make sure everyone's new sneakers fit just right!



Oregon's Marcus Mariota scrambles during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Ohio State Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Heisman winner Marcus Mariota says he's going to the NFL

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota, whose bold moves and leadership on the field brought the Ducks to the brink of a national championship before falling short, is leaving Oregon early for the NFL. Mariota announced his long-awaited decision to forgo his senior season on Oregon's website. The team said he filed paperwork on Wednesday, a day before the NFL deadline.

"I will miss being with my teammates," he said in a statement. "Being a part of this team was something special that I will always treasure."

Mariota has been the humble leader of Oregon's high-flying offense for three seasons. This season, the Ducks (13-2) defeated Florida State at the Rose Bowl in college football's first playoffs, but fell 42-20 to Ohio State in Monday night's national championship game.

Continued on Page 18

James returns with 33, Cavs slide at 6

BRON'S BACK



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives against Phoenix Suns' Alex Len during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in Phoenix.

Associated Press
Page 19

Brazil's Ronaldo to attempt comeback with Strikers

Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Florida (AP)

— Brazilian star Ronaldo says he will attempt to make a playing comeback this spring with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers of the second-tier North American Soccer League. The world player of the year in 1996, 1997 and 2002, Ronaldo is now 38 and hasn't played since February 2011 with Brazil's Corinthians. He spoke at a news conference Wednesday called to announce he has become a part-owner of the Strikers.

Ronaldo said his return to the game would help the league and football in America.

Asked whether the former World Cup winner would play, Ronaldo responded in English and said "that is not easy."



Three-time FIFA player of the year Ronaldo Luís Nazário de Lima poses for photographers with a Fort Lauderdale Strikers jersey after talking about his new role as part owner of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers during a news conference Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, in Hollywood, Fla.

Associated Press

"I love to play," he said. "That was my big love. But

when I retired, it was because of my body. I had

so much pain and so many injuries. "It isn't easy to get fit. I will try. I will train a lot."

Since retiring as a player, Ronaldo has become a part-owner of a marketing company called Nine Sports and Entertainment, which represents Barcelona forward Neymar and mixed martial arts fighter Anderson Silva.

He joins a team that lost to San Antonio in last year's NASL final last season. Fort Lauderdale averaged 3,092 for home games, almost half the league average of 5,989.

NASL Commissioner Bill Peterson, who attended the news conference, said his league will soon challenge Major League Soccer, which averaged 18,704 last year. MLS plans to start a Miami team led by retired star David Beckham, who is

trying to find a site in Miami to build a stadium.

"We just finished our fourth season," Preston said. "We have 11 teams. Our goal is to have 20 teams by 2018. Our goal is to line up against any club in the world by 2018."

The Strikers play in 55-year-old Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale. Ricardo Geromel, one of the team's owners, said a new stadium is planned.

The Strikers, who open their season on April 4 against the New York Cosmos, said they will try to bring in players from Brazil, using the connections of Ronaldo and their other Brazilian owners.

"We want to have all the best players," Ronaldo said. "But we don't have the money yet. We have a budget." □

Marcus Mariota

Continued from Page 17

The 6-foot-4 dual threat from Hawaii won every major award he qualified for, starting with the Heisman, as well as AP Player of the Year, the Maxwell and Walter Camp awards and Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year. He set a conference record for most touchdowns in a single season with 58; 42 via pass, 15 on the run and a touchdown catch.

His passing touchdowns set a Pac-12 single-season record. He also set the conference's career mark for career touchdowns with 136.

He threw at least one touchdown pass in all 41 college games he played in at Oregon, starting in every one of his appearances. And he's one of just four quarterbacks in FBS history to pass for more than 10,000 yards and run for more than 2,000 in his career.

"It's been an honor to watch Marcus develop over the last four years, and I'm excited to see what his future holds," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said in a statement. "He's given this program everything we could have asked, and

he'll be the standard by which others are judged. Mahalo."

Led by Mariota, Oregon finished No. 2 in this season's final AP rankings. Overall, the Ducks ranked third in the nation in total offense with an average of 547 yards per game. The Ducks' passing offense under Mariota was ranked 10th nationally with an average of 312.5 yards a game. Mariota's passer efficiency rating (181.7) topped the nation.

Mariota was known for his steady demeanor from the start. Off the field, he was shy and unassuming, but he stayed on the field following every game to shake hands and pose for pictures.

Mariota said before Monday's season finale that he would trade his Heisman for a national championship, but it wasn't to be. In the final game he threw for 333 yards and two touchdowns.

"My main focus was to be a great teammate," he said following the game. "That's all I hoped to accomplish. I don't really care about legacies."

Mariota was a three-star recruit for the Ducks out of St. Louis High School in Honolulu. He is fiercely proud



Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota warms up before the Rose Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal against Florida State, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

of his roots: His helmet facemask was designed to include the numbers 8-0-8 in a nod to the state's area code, and following the national championship his family gifted him with stacks of leis that he wore in the locker room.

"I think you could argue that this was the best, if not certainly one of the top two or three greatest seasons in college football history," Helfrich said of Mariota following the game. "And then you add in the person and the legacy that he has

from that standpoint, and there has never been one greater. None."

Three plays this season exemplified Mariota's ability to create on the football field.

Among his four touchdowns in Oregon's victory over Wyoming was an acrobatic second-quarter keeper where he somersaulted into the end zone over receiver Keanon Lowe and a Cowboys defender. Then there was an inspired shovel pass to freshman running back Royce Free-

man that gave the Ducks a key first down in a victory over then-No. 7 Michigan State.

And although the Ducks would lose 31-24 to Arizona on Oct. 2, Mariota got creative to start the second quarter when he handed off to Freeman, who lobbed the ball back to Mariota for a 28-yard touchdown.

Spartans coach Mark Dantonio summed Mariota up this way: "What he does is lead. What he shows is toughness. And what he does is create."

Mariota's departure leaves the Ducks with uncertainty at quarterback.

He backup this season and heir apparent for the job - at least for now - is Jeff Lockie, a 6-foot-2 redshirt sophomore. He attempted 27 passes this season, completing 21 for 207 yards and a touchdown.

Others waiting in the wings include current redshirt Morgan Mahalak, Georgia Tech transfer Ty Griffin and recruit Travis Waller.

Mariota is the second Oregon player to declare for the NFL draft with eligibility left.

Defensive lineman Arik Armstead filed paperwork to make in official Tuesday. □

James' 33 in return not enough, Cavs lose 6h straight

The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — LeBron James scored 33 points in his return from a two-week layoff but it wasn't enough to prevent the Cleveland Cavaliers from going down to their sixth straight loss, 107-100 to the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

Markieff Morris scored a career-high 35 points on 15-of-21 shooting for the Suns, who outscored the Cavs 11-3 over the last 3:31. The Cavaliers rallied from a 19-point, third-quarter deficit to go ahead in the fourth, the first of eight lead changes down the stretch. J.R. Smith, who joined the Cavaliers during James' absence, scored 29, going 8 of 14 on 3-pointers.

James, who took time off to rest his sore left foot and lower back, made 11 of 18 shots, 6 of 8 in the second half.

TIMBERWOLVES 110, PACERS 101

Mo Williams scored a career-high 52 points, most in the NBA this season, and Minnesota snapped a 15-game losing streak.

Williams made six 3-pointers, including one that gave Minnesota a 102-96 lead. Andrew Wiggins added 20 points and Gorgui Dieng had 10 for the Timberwolves (6-31), who won for the first time since beating Portland 90-82 on Dec. 10. C.J. Miles had 22 points and C.J. Watson added 17 for the Pacers (15-25), who have lost three of four.

Williams surpassed the 46 points scored this season by both Carmelo Anthony and Pau Gasol, which had been tops in the NBA.

WIZARDS 101, SPURS 93

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Wall broke yet another personal 0-for-forever streak, this one against an entire team, scoring 25 points with eight assists in Washington's win that gave him his first taste of success against the reigning NBA champs. Wall had been 0-7 against the Spurs since he was drafted No. 1 overall in 2010, and the Wizards as a whole had not beaten San

Antonio since Nov. 12, 2005 — a streak of 17 games.

Tim Duncan had 11 points and 12 rebounds, and Tony Parker scored 14 points for the Spurs.

HAWKS 105, 76ERS 87

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Al Horford had his first career triple-double, scoring 21 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists to lead Atlanta to its ninth straight win.

The Hawks easily thumped the Sixers even while resting 60 percent of their starting lineup. Leading scorer Jeff Teague, Paul Millsap and DeMarre Carroll all sat out with the team in a stretch of four games in five nights. The Hawks have won 23 of 25 and also won their ninth straight road game. They are in first place this late in the season for the first time since they won the East in 1993-94.

Michael Carter-Williams scored 20 points for the Sixers.

MAVERICKS 108, KINGS 104, OT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Monta Ellis scored six of his 28 points in overtime and added 10 assists, and Dallas beat Sacramento.

The Mavericks rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to avoid their first four-game losing streak of the season. Dallas was coming off two humbling losses to Detroit (118-105) and the Clippers (120-100). DeMarcus Cousins, who fouled out late in the fourth quarter, had 32 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists for the Kings. Darren Collison had 18 points and seven rebounds.

Rajon Rondo broke out of a scoring slump with 21 points and seven assists for Dallas, which rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat the Kings on Nov. 11. Tyson Chandler had 16 points and 17 rebounds, Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points and Chandler Parsons finished with 13.

WARRIORS 116, JAZZ 105

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 27 points and ignited a decisive third-quarter run to

lead Golden State over Utah.

Draymond Green scored 15 points while Harrison Barnes and Klay Thompson added 12 apiece to lift the Warriors (30-5) to their franchise-best seventh consecutive victory by double figures.

Derrick Favors had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz, who could not overcome blistering third-quarter shooting by Golden State. Utah allowed 44 points on 16-of-26 shooting in that period.

Gordon Hayward scored 17 points while Enes Kanter and Rudy Gobert each added a double-double for Utah. Kanter finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Gobert had 16 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots off the bench.

HEAT 78, LAKERS 75

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ma-



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) passes the ball as Phoenix Suns' P.J. Tucker (17) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

rio Chalmers scored nine of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, Hassan Whiteside added 15 and Miami completed a Staples Center sweep.

Chris Bosh scored eight points on 4-of-17 shooting

for the Heat, who followed up their surprise victory over the Clippers two days ago by winning an ugly game against the Lakers despite losing Dwyane Wade to a strained left hamstring late in the first half. □

Adam Silver: Having jersey sponsors in NBA 'inevitable'

MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — In the NBA's efforts to grow its popularity in Europe, it may have picked up a way of also boosting revenues back home.

Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday it is "inevitable" that the league will one day take after European sports and have sponsor names on team jerseys. That's standard practice for international sports teams, for which selling advertising space on their shirts is a main source of income.

With the NBA back in London this week for its annual regular-season game, Silver said that's something the league could copy — even if some fans would find it jarring.

"Exactly when it's going to come, I'm not sure, but I do think it's inevitable in our sport," Silver said ahead of Thursday's game between the New York Knicks and

Milwaukee Bucks at London's O2 Arena.

"Mainly because I travel so much and I see the model work so successfully here. I think that as we look to generate other forms of revenue and also as we listen to the marketplace, the companies that are involved with the NBA want to get closer to the game, want to get closer to our players."

It could be a while before it happens, though, as it's still unclear how the financial details of such a system would work. For instance, the league would want to spread the revenue fairly equally, even though some teams could probably charge more than others.

"It's less a function of purists who oppose it and say the shirt should be clean," he said. "It's more a function of figuring out the right economic model."

While the NBA is still only playing one game a year



Carmelo Anthony shoots during a New York Knicks media availability session at the O2 Arena in London, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. Milwaukee Bucks will play New York Knicks in an NBA game at the O2 Arena in London on Thursday.

Associated Press

in London — unlike the NFL which has expanded to three — Silver said the league's ultimate "vision" remains the same: to have a division of four full-fledged franchises in Europe one day. □

NHL Capsules

Islanders cool off Rangers with dominant 3-0 win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Frans Nielsen's short-handed tally capped the Islanders' three-goal second period, Jaroslav Halak made 27 saves in his fourth shutout of the season, and Long Island's team cooled off the New York Rangers with a 3-0 victory on Tuesday night.

The Rangers had won five straight and 13 of 14 — a run punctuated by a three-game California sweep last week — but the Eastern Conference-leading Islanders finished a seven-game road trip with their third straight win.

Shortly after the Islanders had a goal waved off because of interference in the crease, Anders Lee broke the scoreless deadlock at 8:49 of the second with his 11th goal. Nikolay Kulemin made it 2-0 with 3:39 left, and Nielsen capped the scoring with the Islanders' NHL-leading seventh short-handed goal of the season in the final minute of the period.

JETS 8, PANTHERS 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Mathieu Perreault scored four goals to tie a franchise record as Winnipeg cruised past Florida.

Dustin Byfuglien added two goals and an assist and



Florida Panthers' Willie Mitchell (33) and Winnipeg Jets' Bryan Little (18) vie for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Associated Press

Jay Harrison and Evander Kane also scored for the Jets, who have coach Paul Maurice his 500th win as a head coach. The eight-goal output was a season high for the Jets, one short of the franchise record.

Perreault tied the franchise record for most goals in a game. Ilya Kovalchuk was the last to do it for the Thrashers in 2005 and Pascal Rheaume had the first one.

Dave Bolland and Brad Boyes scored for Florida, which finished 4-2-0 on a six-game trip.

SHARKS 3, COYOTES 2

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — Brenden Dillon scored his first goal of the season in the third period and Antti Niemi stopped 27 shots to lift San Jose past Arizona.

Joe Pavelski scored his 22nd goal early in the second period and Tomas Hertl scored just over a minute later for the Sharks. Dillon scored his first goal in 62 games early in the third period on a deflected shot and Niemi made some big saves down the stretch to give San Jose a victory before opening a seven-game homestand.

Mikkel Boedker scored in

his third straight game and Shane Doan also had a goal before sitting out most of the third period with a right leg injury. Devan Dubnyk stopped 22 shots for Arizona, which has lost four of six.

SENATORS 5, STARS 4

DALLAS (AP) — John Klingberg scored two goals in a four-goal second period when Dallas rallied from two down to take a two-goal lead.

Trevor Daley and Erik Cole also scored in the second, as Dallas took a 5-3 lead.

Anders Lindback stopped all 14 Ottawa shots in the

period. He made 34 saves and gave up two goals in relief.

Starter Kari Lehtonen allowed two goals in five shots while playing just 10:30 before his earliest exit this season.

Ottawa's Mike Hoffman, Clarke MacArthur and Jarred Cowen each scored in the first period. Milan Michalek added a third-period goal. Dallas' Cole and Ales Hensky each had a goal and an assist.

PENGUINS 7, WILD 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — David Perron scored twice and added an assist to lead Pittsburgh.

Paul Martin, Kris Letang and Chris Kunitz each had a goal and an assist for the Penguins. Marcel Goc and Brandon Sutter also scored for Pittsburgh.

Sidney Crosby had three assists for the Penguins, who had little trouble with the floundering Wild. Marc-Andre Fleury made 30 saves, including several key stops early to give his teammates time to find a rhythm.

Niklas Backstrom stopped 29 of the 35 shots before being pulled following Letang's goal midway through the third period. Jonas Brodin and Justin Fontaine scored for the Wild, who never led.

Jets hire Cardinals' Todd Bowles as coach

**DENNIS WASZAK Jr.,
AP Sports Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Jets hired Arizona Cardinals defensive coordinator Todd Bowles as their head coach on Wednesday.

The 51-year-old Bowles replaces Rex Ryan, who was fired, along with general manager John Idzik, on Dec. 29 after six seasons. Bowles was a highly sought candidate after leading Arizona's defense the last two seasons.

It is a homecoming of sorts for Bowles, who is a native of Elizabeth, New Jersey. He also served as the Jets' defensive backs coach



In this Nov. 9, 2014 photo, Arizona Cardinals defensive coordinator Todd Bowles watches his players warm up prior to an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

under then-coach Al Groh during the 2000 season.

Bowles beat five other candidates who were inter-

viewed for the job, including Seattle defensive coordinator Dan Quinn and former Buffalo coach Doug

Marrone.

The Jets hired former Houston director of college scouting Mike Maccagnan as their general manager Tuesday night.

Bowles becomes the fifth black head coach currently in the NFL, joining Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin, Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis, Tampa Bay's Lovie Smith and Detroit's Jim Caldwell. He is also the fifth straight defensive-focused coach Johnson has hired since taking over the Jets in 2000, joining Ryan, Eric Mangini, Herm Edwards and Groh.

With the Jets, Bowles will inherit a solid defensive front seven - which was always

Ryan's primary focus - with rising star defensive linemen in Muhammad Wilkerson and Sheldon Richardson. The secondary, however, needs a major overhaul.

Along with Maccagnan, who was hired Tuesday night, Bowles will try to help the Jets bounce back from four straight seasons out of the playoffs. The franchise is also desperate for a Super Bowl appearance, something it hasn't had since 1969. Bowles brings a wealth of playing and coaching experience with him to New York. He played college football for current Cardinals coach Bruce Arians at Temple.

Arum: Pacquiao agrees to terms for Mayweather fight

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Manny Pacquiao flew to Los Angeles on Wednesday, preparing for a meeting with contestants of the Miss Universe pageant. Whether he has an even bigger date on May 2 seems entirely up to Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Promoter Bob Arum said Pacquiao has agreed to all terms for what would be boxing's richest fight ever, a bout with Mayweather that fans have been demanding for five years. The question now is whether the long-reluctant Mayweather will finally sign on the dotted line for what could be an astonishing \$120 million payday for the fighter who flaunts his money better than anyone. "Your guess is as good as mine," Arum told The Associated Press. "I don't want to be antagonistic and say he's not on board and not going to sign. The representation is that he is on board with this."

Arum said negotiations with Mayweather's representatives over the past few weeks resulted in agreements on everything from the date and site of the fight (MGM Grand in Las Vegas) to purse split (reportedly 60-40 in Mayweather's favor) to the type of gloves the boxers

will wear.

But Mayweather has yet to personally agree to the fight, and the possibility remained that Arum was publicly discussing Pacquiao agreeing to terms to try to up the pressure on the unbeaten boxer to sign.

"We're waiting for Mayweather to sign a document saying, 'Yeah,'" Arum said.

Just what Mayweather is thinking remains unclear. Though he declared on Showtime last month that he wanted the fight, he rarely speaks to the media between fights and his manager, Al Haymon, almost never speaks publicly.

Mayweather put out pictures of himself in front of a private jet and his new cars this week along with a picture of his Las Vegas mansion, but said nothing about the Pacquiao fight on social media.

Arum said the negotiations have been at the highest levels, and Pacquiao agreed to all the demands by the Mayweather team. "We took our stands on certain issues, but essentially we acquiesced on most things," Arum said. Arum said he planned to meet with Pacquiao on Thursday in Los Angeles to formally get his fighter's

signature on the terms of the bout. Pacquiao flew from the Philippines on his way to judge the Miss Universe pageant on Jan. 25 in Florida.

Arum said the fight would be held at the MGM, where Mayweather has fought exclusively for years. The 15,000-seat arena would be scaled for a \$40 million live gate. He said with pay-per-view revenues, the bout could generate \$200 million.

With a 60-40 split, that would mean a potential \$120 million payday for Mayweather and his team and \$80 million for Pacquiao and his promoter. Both would be record purses for fighters.

Mayweather has resisted a Pacquiao fight for five years, first claiming Pacquiao would not agree to drug testing and later saying he wasn't worth facing him in the ring. But Arum said Pacquiao has long since agreed to the testing, and the pressure has built on Mayweather to come to terms on the bout. Oddsmakers quickly put out lines Wednesday in this gambling city favoring Mayweather in the bout. Both the Westgate LV Superbook and William Hill made him about a 2 1/2-to-1 favorite in man-to-man betting.



In this April 2010, file photo, Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, poses for a photo during a news conference in Las Vegas and in this May 4, 2011, file photo, Manny Pacquiao, right, pumps his fist during a news conference in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

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Juan Martin del Potro wins again in Sydney injury comeback

SYDNEY (AP) — Juan Martin del Potro continued his promising return from an 11-month injury layoff by beating top-seeded Fabio Fognini 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Sydney International.

The former fourth-ranked player from Argentina needed a wild-card entry to get into the main draw because his world ranking had dropped to 338 during his lengthy absence.

Second-seeded David

Goffin of Belgium also lost, falling to Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-3, 6-3, while Bernard Tomic of Australia defeated third-seeded Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 6-4.

Del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion, needed treatment from the court-side trainer during the first set. He has said he still has wrist pain and his injury constrains his two-handed backhand.

The Argentine's quarterfinal opponent will be Ka-

zakhstan qualifier Mikhail Kukushkin, who beat sixth-seeded Pablo Cuevas 7-5, 7-5.

On the women's side, defending champion Tsvetana Pironkova beat Barbora Zhalavova Strycova 6-4, 6-1 to stay on track to win the tournament for the second consecutive year as a qualifier.

Also winning a quarterfinal match was Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, who beat Jarmila Gajdosova 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

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Mcllroy opens defining year seeking first win in Abu Dhabi

STEVE DOUGLAS
AP Sports Writer

Rory Mcllroy isn't divulging what is on his list of seven goals for 2015 that he jotted down on the back of his boarding pass on a flight to Dubai last week.

Completing a career Grand Slam at the Masters in April? Surely that was No. 1. A court case against his former management company, scheduled for February, is also a defining early year date for the world's top-ranked player.

Winning this week's Abu Dhabi Championship may not have been on the list, but it would end years of frustration for Mcllroy at what has become his traditional year-opening tournament.

Mcllroy has finished second at Abu Dhabi Golf Club in three of the last four years. On two of those occasions, he was hit with rule penalties that ultimately cost him victory.

"One of the goals this week is just to have no penalty shots when I don't need them," he said. "And see where I end up at the end of the week."

Losing out to Spain's Pablo



In this April 10, 2014, file photo, Rory Mcllroy, of Northern Ireland, hits out of a bunker on the second green during the first round of the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

Larrazabal in a thrilling end to last year's tournament was one of the few regrets for Mcllroy in a stunning 2014.

He won the British Open and the U.S. PGA Championship to double his tally of major titles, returned to the top of the rankings, and was one of the stars of the European team that retained the Ryder Cup at

Gleneagles.

Mcllroy wants more.

"I didn't achieve everything that I wanted to last year," he said.

It has become something of a ritual for him to write down his objectives for the season on his boarding pass on his flight out for his first tournament of the year. He puts the list in his wallet and memorizes it.

"I'll take that boarding pass out at the end of the year and see how well I've done," Mcllroy said.

"I feel 2014 has really set me up for another great year. I'm coming in with a nice little bit of momentum, and (my) game is feeling good." With Mcllroy having had a month off, his rivals in Abu Dhabi will hope Boy Wonder is rusty.

It is another strong field, with No. 2 Henrik Stenson, U.S. Open champion Martin Kaymer, No. 6 Justin Rose and American star Rickie Fowler — making his debut in the desert — among the other entries.

Mcllroy and Fowler are in the same group for the first two days, marking the first time they have played together since the singles at the Ryder Cup. Mcllroy put on an awesome performance that Sunday, winning 5 and 4.

Kaymer is a three-time winner (2008, '10 and '11) in Abu Dhabi, and was one stroke off first place in 2009. The German is one of the few players to have a better record on the course than Mcllroy, who was third in 2010 and tied for fifth in 2009 before his run of runner-up finishes.

"It's a golf course I've always felt comfortable on, one that has suited me, and I have played well here," Mcllroy said. "This is my eighth year in a row starting the season off here, so I'm pretty familiar with the place, and looking forward to another strong start to the season."



In the Feb. 16, 2013, file photo, then-New York Mets starting pitcher Johan Santana stretches during spring training baseball in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Johan Santana retired six straight batters on Tuesday night in the Venezuelan Winter League, the first outing for the two-time AL Cy Young Award winner since he tore an Achilles tendon last June. Starting for the Magallanes Navigators in a 10-2 victo-

ry over the Aragua Tigers, the Venezuela left-hander threw 17 pitches and didn't have any strikeouts in the two-inning outing.

Santana, 139-78 in 12 major league seasons, has made just 21 big league appearances in the last four seasons due to a pair of shoulder operations and the

Santana pitches 2 innings in 1st outing of comeback attempt

foot injury. He tore his left Achilles tendon last June 6 while pitching in extended spring training with the Baltimore Orioles. Santana was struck by a line drive and stumbled while in pursuit of the ball.

Santana, who turns 36 in March, hopes to sign with a big league organization. He won the Cy Youngs for Minnesota in 2004 and 2006.

He has not pitched in the major leagues since 2012 with the New York Mets. Santana signed a \$137.5 million, six-year contract with New York before the 2008 season and had surgery Sept. 14, 2010, to repair tears in the front and bottom of his left shoulder's anterior capsule.

He returned to the major

leagues on April 5, 2012, and pitched the first no-hitter in Mets history that June 1 against St. Louis, throwing a career-high 134 pitches. He then went 3-7 with an 8.27 ERA and cut his season short because of lower

back inflammation.

Santana experienced weakness in his pitching shoulder during the following spring training and had surgery on April 2, 2013, for a tear in the capsule in the front of his left shoulder.



Review: Smarten up your home with Apple HomeKit

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Apple didn't attend last week's CES gadget show but its presence was felt. Many companies have designed "smart" home products that integrate with Apple's HomeKit, an emerging technology for controlling lights and appliances through a mobile app. There are other efforts to unify smart-home devices, but many of them rely on individual partnerships. That approach is slower than simply having everyone use a common set of tools — in this case, HomeKit.

SO WHAT IS HOMEKIT?

Think of HomeKit as a way to unify smart-home products from different manufacturers. Currently, if Acme Co. makes a light switch, you need to download Acme's app to control it remotely. Buy a garage door opener from Widget Inc., and you need to use Widget's app. With HomeKit, companies can integrate their apps into a single software platform that you control from your iPhone or iPad. (One note of caution: Companies aren't required to make rival products work with their apps; although many say they will, it's best to check before you buy.)

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

HomeKit's strength is its ability to group products into "rooms," "zones" and "scenes." With one tap, you can turn off every HomeKit product in a room, such as lights and stereos. You can also do that with a group of rooms, or zone. You can even use the Siri voice assistant to control your home. Saying "I feel hot" might prompt Siri to turn on the air conditioner and lower the shade for you. Tap a "party" scene and the stereo and disco lights could turn on while your regular lamps dim. Setting up a "bedtime" scene might involve leaving just the nightlight on, while locking the front door and lowering the heat downstairs. Sure, you can al-



In this June 2, 2014 file photo, Apple senior vice president of Software Engineering Craig Federighi speaks about the Apple HomeKit app at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco. Associated Press

ready control a set of lights and appliances by attaching them to a power strip with an on-off switch, but your options are limited to all on or all off. With HomeKit, you have the option of creating multiple combinations to match whatever ambiance you prefer.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

The first requirement is an iPhone or an iPad with iOS 8. (Sorry, Android and Windows users, you'll need a different system. Google is starting to enable similar functionality through its Nest smart thermostat and smoke detector and Microsoft is trying to enable smart-home controls using its Cortana voice assistant. Of course, if makers of smart-home products enable multiple systems — and some of them plan to — consumers won't have to worry about which device works with what.) OK. Now you'll need a HomeKit-capable product; those will start coming out in a few months. HomeKit-enabled products certified by Apple will carry a HomeKit logo. The easiest way to start is with a HomeKit power plug, such as ones that iHome, iDevices and Grid Connect soon plan to sell for \$40 to \$80 each. Your appliance hooks into that

plug, which then goes into a regular electric outlet. The HomeKit power plug has a HomeKit-certified chipset with a wireless connection to get instructions from the app. Insteon, a maker of more than 200 automated products including thermostats and light bulbs, also plans to sell a hub to make all of its existing and future products compatible with HomeKit. The HomeKit-compatible hub will sell for

\$150. By contrast, it sells a \$40 hub that lets you control Insteon devices through an app, but it won't work with HomeKit products from other companies. Meanwhile, a garage-door opener from Chamberlain and door locks from Schlage will be enabled for HomeKit from the start, with no need for an intermediary power plug. Elgato's Eve home-monitoring system will have sensors to measure air quality,

temperature, humidity, air pressure, energy and water consumption. Other products to come will likely include wireless speakers, lamps and security cameras.

As you start adding more HomeKit plugs and HomeKit-enabled products, you can define zones and scenes to tap into HomeKit's power.

If you have a third-generation Apple TV streaming device (released in 2012), you can use Siri to control your home from elsewhere. Otherwise, you need to tap on the app and use Siri only when you're on your home wireless network.

THE PROMISE

For users of Apple devices, HomeKit will be an easy way to automate your home. Apple says it will review products to ensure they are easy to use and meet its privacy and security guidelines. What will be tougher is outfitting your home with the necessary equipment, especially at \$40 or more per plug. But as you replace lights and appliances you can start building a smart home, or just buy HomeKit plugs for the essential things you want automated. □

FDA approves appetite-zapping implant for obese patients

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators have approved an appetite-suppressing implant designed to treat obesity by zapping nerves that connect the stomach and the brain. The Maestro Rechargeable System uses electrodes implanted in the abdomen to stimulate the vagus nerve, which signals to the brain that the stomach is empty or full. Patients and doctors can adjust the device settings using external controllers.

Shares of EnteroMedics rose in trading Wednesday after the Food and Drug Administration said it approved the device for certain patients who are severely obese. It's the first

medical device approved for obesity since the agency's 2007 approval of a gastric band from Ethicon. The FDA approved the device for patients 18 and older who have been unable to lose weight via a supervised weight-loss program and have a body mass index of 35 to 40 with one other obesity-related health condition, such as diabetes. BMI is an estimate of body fat based on weight and height. Someone who is 5-foot-9 would be severely obese — with a BMI of 35 — at 240 pounds. EnteroMedics said the device's two electrodes are implanted via a minimally-invasive surgical procedure, which could make

the device system a less invasive alternative to other weight-loss surgeries. The device has an external battery that needs to be recharged weekly. The St. Paul, Minnesota-based company compares it to a pacemaker.

A company executive said the device is already approved in Europe and Australia though it is not yet on sale. EnteroMedics plans to focus on the device's U.S. launch, targeting sales to surgical centers. The company is also pursuing reimbursement from health care insurance providers. EnteroMedics Inc. stock gained 30 cents, or 25 percent, to \$1.47 in morning trading. □

Dismal US retail sales report hits Wall Street



Trader Steven Capo, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. A dismal report on retail spending in the U.S. and signs of slowing global growth drove stocks lower and sent yields on government bonds plunging as investors sought safety. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A dismal report on retail spending in the U.S. and signs of slowing global growth drove stocks lower and sent yields on government bonds plunging as investors sought safety.

U.S. stocks fell from the start of trading on a report that consumers pulled back on spending last month and on a slump in European markets. At one point, the Dow Jones industrial average shed nearly 350 points. Investors dumped some key commodities on fears global growth is stalling, pushing the price of copper to a five-year low, and they piled into German, British and U.S. government bonds. The yield on the 30-

year U.S. Treasury fell to its lowest on record.

"We haven't seen volatility like this for years," said John Canally, investment strategist for LPL Financial. "People are more worried."

The Commerce Department reported that retail sales fell 0.9 percent in December, the biggest decline since January last year. The drop was a surprise to many investors because it showed consumers are still reluctant to spend despite lower gas prices and a pickup in hiring.

"There was a perception that the economy was improving, but that has gotten called into question," said Peter Tuz, a portfolio manager at Chase Investment Counsel, which man-

ages \$400 million in assets. "The savings from lower gas prices hasn't translated into higher consumer spending yet."

A report from the World Bank late Tuesday also weighed on markets. The bank lowered its forecast for global growth this year to 3 percent from 3.4 percent. It blamed sluggish economies in Europe and Japan and a slowdown in China.

The price of copper, a metal used in construction and manufacturing, fell 14 cents, or 5.2 percent, to close at \$2.51 a pound following the World Bank's downgrade.

Investors buying up 10-year Treasury notes sent its yield, a benchmark for home loans and corporate bor-

rowing, to 1.85 percent, its lowest since May 2013. The yield on the 30-year bond dropped below 2.4 percent for the first time.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.76 points, 0.6 percent, to 2,011.27. The S&P 500 is heading for its third straight week of losses. The Nasdaq composite fell 22.18 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,639.32. And the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 186.59 points, or 1.1 percent, to 17,427.09.

Stocks are swinging more this year as investors become anxious. The Dow index was down as much as 348 points in the early afternoon, before gaining back much of its losses. On Tuesday, the difference between the Dow's high and low was more than 400 points.

Investors will turn their attention next to more corporate earnings reports. A handful of big companies are expected to report Thursday, including giant money manager BlackRock, energy company Schlumberger and Intel Corp., the world's largest chip maker.

Overall, companies in the S&P 500 are expected to report a modest 4.5 percent increase in fourth-quarter earnings per share compared with a year ago, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Among stocks making big moves:

— The drop in commodities pushed mining giant Freeport-McMoRan down \$2.30, or 11 percent, to \$18.74. □

STREET BRIEFS

Shell, Qatar pass on petrochemical plan as oil slides

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Shell, Europe's largest oil producer, and Qatar Petroleum said Wednesday that they are scrapping a planned petrochemicals project in the Gulf nation due to falling energy prices. Shell said in a statement that high costs made the Al Karaana plant "commercially unfeasible, particularly in the current economic climate prevailing in the energy industry." Oil prices have slumped almost 60 percent since June. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, was down 82 cents to \$47 a barrel in London on Wednesday. The joint-venture complex in Qatar, that was to have been owned 80 percent by state-run Qatar Petroleum and 20 percent by Shell, was supposed to be built in Ras Laffan Industrial City. □

Report: Protests hit sales of luxury group Burberry

LONDON (AP) — Luxury goods maker Burberry is reporting falling sales in Asia because pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong disrupted trade during China's crucial "Golden Week" national holiday. The company reported in a trading update Wednesday that retail revenue increased 14 percent to 604 million pounds (\$915 million) overall in the third quarter ending Dec. 31. Comparable sales were up 8 percent overall but in the Asia-Pacific region, the company delivered low single-digit percentage growth. CEO Christopher Bailey says Burberry will maximize its opportunities in the final quarter - including Lunar New Year. David Alexander, consultant at Conlumino, says given circumstances in Ukraine, Hong Kong and China, "global events seem to be conspiring against luxury retailers at present." □

US businesses boosted stockpiles in November

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses added to their stockpiles by a modest amount in November, even though sales were weak for a fourth consecutive month.

Businesses increased stockpiles by 0.2 percent in November, matching the increase in October, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. Total business sales fell 0.2 per-

cent in November following a 0.3 percent drop in October. A separate report Friday says that retail sales declined in December.

While businesses could start cutting back on their stockpiling if sales don't improve, economists remain optimistic. They are expecting a rebound in demand in coming months, given strong employment gains and a big drop in gas prices, which means people have more money to spend on

other items. Further increases in stockpiles to fill empty shelves would likely translate into increased factory production and stronger economic growth.

For November, stockpiles at the wholesale level rose by 0.8 percent, while manufacturing inventories were up a slight 0.1 percent. Retail inventories actually fell 0.1 percent.

A major reason for the bullish outlook on business sales is the improvement in the

job market. The economy added nearly 3 million jobs in 2014, the strongest job growth since 1999. The hiring gains mean more people working and rising incomes that should boost consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

Many analysts believe the economy will grow by 3 percent in 2015, which would be the strongest annual gain in growth in a decade. □

GM predicts pretax earnings, profit margin rise in 2015

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors says it expects pretax earnings and profit margins to increase this year over last, after adjusting last year for recall costs. The company also predicts improved automotive results in all of its regions. It gave no specific numbers. GM is scheduled to release

its fourth-quarter and 2014 earnings on Feb. 4. GM also reiterated 2016 financial targets of 10 percent pretax profit margins in North America and a return to profitability in Europe. It also expects to maintain strong profit margins in China. Profit margin is the percentage of revenue that a company gets to keep.

The company expects 9 percent to 10 percent profit margins overall by early next decade. GM made the predictions at a Deutsche Bank conference for analysts in Detroit on Thursday. GM issued 84 recalls last year covering more than 30 million vehicles in North America, costing the company more than \$2.8 bil-

lion. The spate of recalls began with faulty small-car ignition switches that are responsible for at least 45 deaths and 68 injuries. GM acknowledged knowing about the bad switches for more than a decade, yet it didn't start recalling the cars until early 2014. CEO Mary Barra told the conference that the company didn't do everything

perfectly on the recalls, but said it now has permanent systems, processes and behavior changes in place to make sure it doesn't happen again. GM plans to reach its goals by leading in product and technology, expanding the Chevrolet and Cadillac brands globally and continuing to grow in China. □

JPMorgan profit falls, hit by legal costs and lower trading

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — JPMorgan Chase reported a 7 percent drop in fourth-quarter earnings Wednesday, hit by more legal costs and a drop in trading revenue.

JPMorgan, which is the biggest U.S. bank by assets, said it earned \$4.93 billion, or \$1.19 a share, for the three-month period ending in December. That compares with a profit of \$5.28 billion, or \$1.30 a share, a year ago. The results were hit by a \$990 million after-tax charge for legal expenses, more than analysts expected. The bank's results have been impacted by various legal costs over the last several quarters as it has settled lawsuits with state and federal regulators over its role in the housing bubble and subsequent financial crisis.

In a conference call with reporters, JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said investors should expect more legal

expenses this year. "Banks are under assault," Dimon said, noting that the bank has to deal with "five to six regulators" for every

banking division was hit by the sale of its commodities trading division and a slowdown in bond trading, one of the bank's larger busi-

nesses. Fixed-income revenue fell 23 percent from the prior year to \$2.5 billion. In the bank's commercial banking division, which in-

cludes credit cards, checking accounts, mortgages, and auto loans, there are signs that consumers are more willing to take on debt and are spending more. Credit card balances were up 3 percent to \$131 billion, while merchant process-

ing volume, the amount of money being spent on the bank's credit and debit cards, was up 13 percent from a year ago. The bank processed 10.3 billion transactions in the quarter, up 7 percent from a year ago. The bank also had an 8 percent increase from the prior year in auto loan originations.

The results missed Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by FactSet was for earnings of \$1.31 a share. Despite JPMorgan's legal troubles, 2014 was a very profitable year for the bank. The company earned \$21.8 billion last year, a 21 percent increase from JPMorgan's profit of \$17.9 billion in 2013. The profit increase came despite revenues remaining mostly flat last year, at \$94.2 billion from \$96.6 billion a year ago.

JPMorgan's miss hit its shares hard. The bank's stock fell \$2.65, or 4.5 percent, to \$56.20. □



People walk past a branch of Chase Bank, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015 in New York. JPMorgan Chase reported a 7 percent drop in fourth-quarter earnings Wednesday, hit by more legal costs and a drop in trading revenue. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

aspect of its legal issues. Total revenue fell 3 percent to \$22.5 billion from \$23.2 billion a year ago. JPMorgan's investment

nesses. Fixed-income revenue fell 23 percent from the prior year to \$2.5 billion. In the bank's commercial banking division, which in-

cludes credit cards, checking accounts, mortgages, and auto loans, there are signs that consumers are more willing to take on debt and are spending more. Credit card balances were up 3 percent to \$131 billion, while merchant process-

Wells Fargo earnings edge up, meeting expectations

MICHAEL CORKERY
© 2015 New York Times

Wells Fargo said Wednesday that its profit rose slightly in the fourth quarter as it continued to lend more money and decrease the amount it set aside to cover soured loans.

Profit rose 2 percent, to \$5.71 billion, from \$5.61 billion in the period a year earlier, while revenue increased 4 percent, to \$21.4 billion.

The earnings translated into \$1.02 a share, matching

the expectations of analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters. Wells Fargo, the nation's largest mortgage lender and a chief lender to businesses and manufacturers, is often seen as a bellwether for the health of the U.S. economy.

"Wells Fargo had another strong year in 2014, with continued strength in the fundamental drivers of long-term performance: growing customers, loans, deposits and capital," John G. Stumpf, the chief execu-

tive, said in a statement. As it has for the past few years, the bank was helped in the fourth quarter by the release of reserves set aside for loan losses as fewer consumers defaulted on credit cards and mortgages amid a brightening job market. The bank released \$250 million in loan loss reserves in the quarter.

But some analysts say they want to see that Wells Fargo and others banks can increase their profits in ways beyond the release

of reserves. "We see 2015 as the year in which the banking industry needs to overcome its reliance on reserve releases and grow revenues," said Erik Oja, a banking analyst at Standard & Poor's who recently lowered his rating on Wells Fargo's shares.

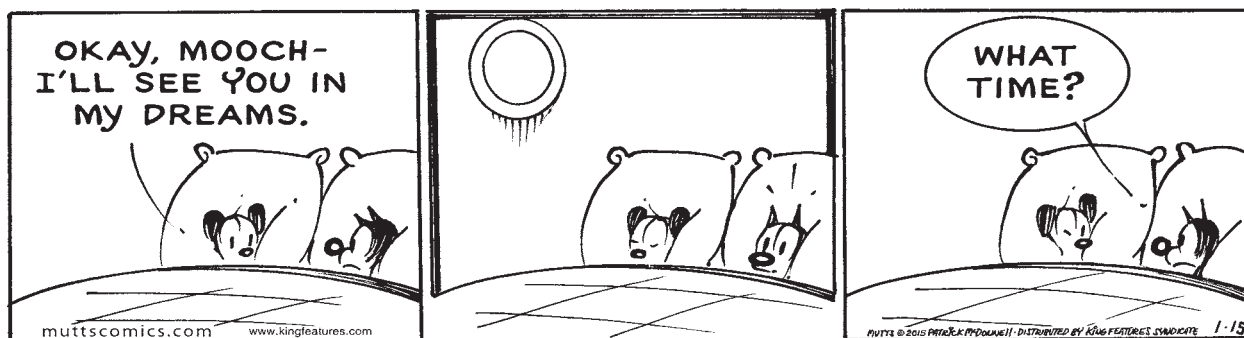
An important source of future profitability for the banks - higher interest rates - remains uncertain. If the economy shows signs of slowing, the Federal Reserve may delay its expect-

ed rate increase, dimming the bank's returns.

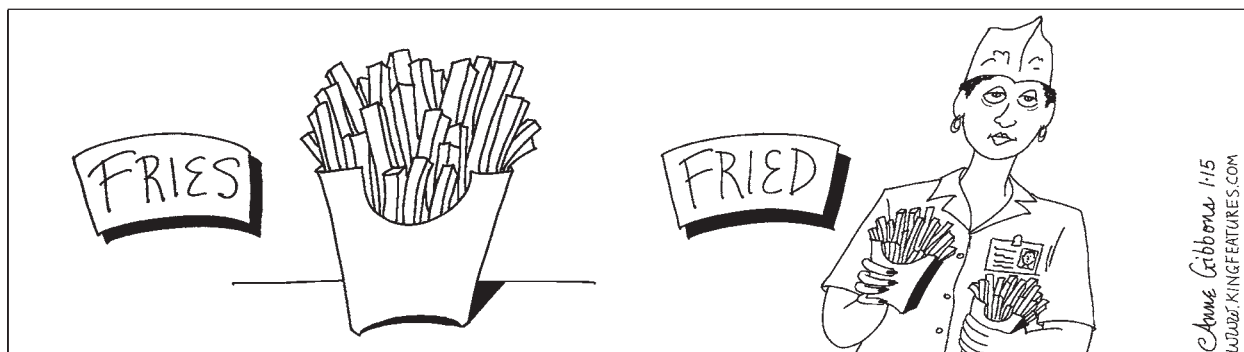
In a positive sign for the bank, Wells Fargo said its overall loans grew 4 percent, to \$849.4 billion, from the period a year ago.

A key measure, however, of Wells Fargo's lending profitability - the net interest margin - fell to 3.04 percent from 3.27 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013. The drop suggests that while the bank may be increasing its lending, it is declining in profitability. □

Mutts



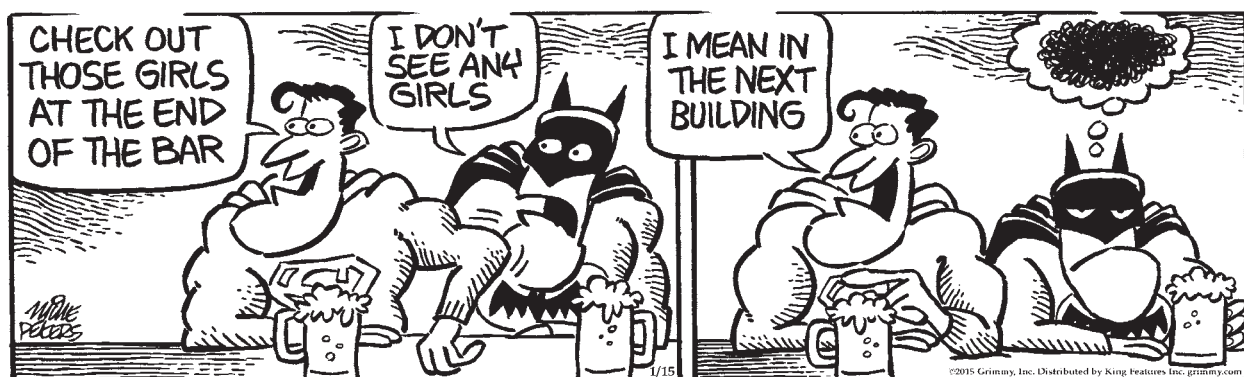
6 Chix



Blondie



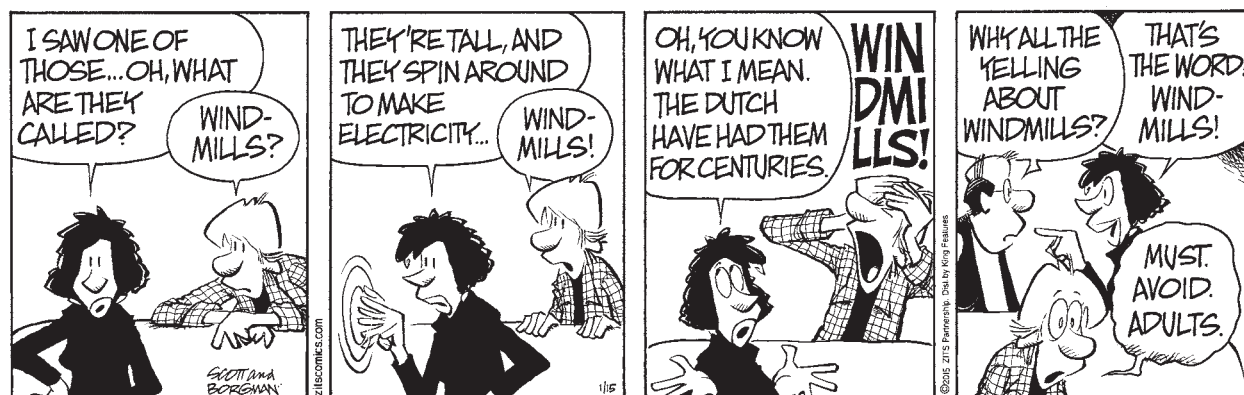
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	4	9		3	2	8	
	6						1	
			2					
4						1		9
			8		4			
6		5						3
					6			
	4						9	
	3	9	1		8	5	7	

Difficulty Level ★★

1/15

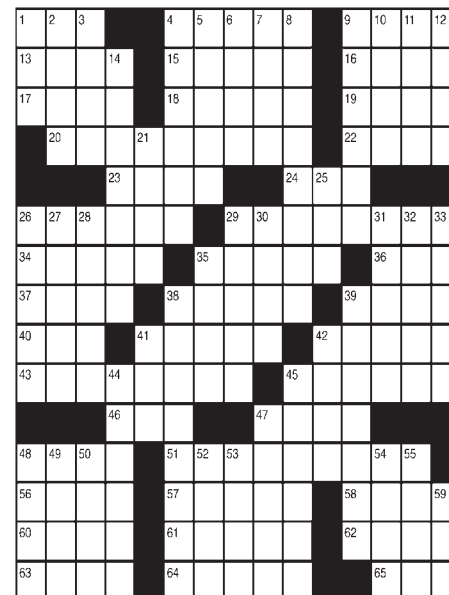
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	7	9	6	1	5	4	2	3
5	2	4	3	8	7	1	9	6
6	1	3	2	9	4	8	5	7
9	4	1	8	2	6	7	3	5
3	5	2	4	7	1	9	6	8
7	8	6	5	3	9	2	1	4
1	9	5	7	6	8	3	4	2
2	6	8	1	4	3	5	7	9
4	3	7	9	5	2	6	8	1

ACROSS

- Aswan or Hoover
- power; seize control
- Long journey
- Suffix for an inflammation
- clip; staple alternative
- In this place
- Jab
- Gem
- Give a heads-up to
- Strong likings; fondnesses
- To boot
- In just a bit
- Hearing organ
- No-nonsense
- Nonstop
- Pencil sharpener's handle, for one
- Yuletide visitor
- double take; look twice
- Ladder step
- Goes along as a passenger
- Money owed
- Play a role
- Ceremonies
- Syrup flavor
- Least tidy
- Bother
- Dieter's concern: abbr.
- Boring
- As easy as falling log
- Profitable
- Swimming spot
- Sir Newton
- Socially inept intellectual
- Barcelona bull
- Chutzpah
- Very excited
- Flower stalk
- Avarice
- Actress Myrna



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/15/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

PUTUP	SHAM	STAG
OPINE	HUGE	HILL
POLES	ITOR	UNDO
SNEAKERS	LODGER	
SILK	BINDERY	
OBEYED	OUNCE	
WAR	READS	ERECT
NIGH	RIDES	SALE
SLOOP	RESTS	RUE
POSER	APPLES	
UTTERED	HIRE	
SOILED	FIDELITY	
HERE	AKIN	ALOHA
EYES	TENT	DETER
REDS	ENDS	STAND

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1/15/15

- 44 Zigzag skiing
- 45 Came in second
- 47 Courageous
- 48 for; chooses
- 49 Twelve inches
- 50 Prefix with head or man
- 52 One who takes advantage of others
- 53 Tender loving; TLC
- 54 Calf meat
- 55 Thus
- 59 Groundhog February 2

DOWN

- Guacamole or salsa
- Perched upon
- Voice amplifier
- Outcome
- Hell's ruler
- "Once a time..."
- Torn in two
- Gifts
- Stymie
- Authentic
- Miscalculates
- Casino game
- Perceiving
- Hen's mate
- Busy bee
- "Get lost!"
- Cease-fire
- Harangues
- West Point student
- Dollar bills
- Skillful
- Gallant; heroic
- Spud
- Takes a chair
- White wine
- Smartly attired; debonair
- Curved bone
- Beef or pork

Classifieds

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1 br wk 04 rom 103 pool/ocean
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6th floor over look the ocean
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FOR SALE

Divi Phoenix

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Astronauts flee U.S. side of space station

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — In a rare scare, astronauts fled the American side of the International Space Station on Wednesday after an alarm indicated a possible toxic leak. NASA later said there was no leak of ammonia coolant and a computer problem likely set off the false alarm.

By Wednesday afternoon, the astronauts were back in the U.S. part of the orbiting outpost. Earlier, the six crew members had huddled safely on the Russian side — once when the alarm sounded and again following an initial all-clear. “Hey everybody, thanks for your concern,” Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti said via Twitter. “We’re all safe & doing well in the Russian segment.”

The “unscheduled excitement,” as NASA called it, occurred around 4 a.m. EST, well into the station crew’s workday. As alarms blared, the astronauts followed emergency



This November 2014 image made from a frame grabbed from NASA-TV, shows Expedition 42 crew members, front row from left, Anton Shkaplerov, Samantha Cristoforetti and Terry Virts, and back row from left, Elena Serova, Commander Barry Wilmore and Alexander Samokutyaev, while on the International Space Station in the Zvezda service module during a traditional crew greeting ceremony with family and mission officials on the ground.

Associated Press

procedures in slapping on oxygen masks, taking cover in the Russian quarters, then sealing the hatches between the U.S. and Russian sides. At the same time, flight controllers at NASA’s

Johnson Space Center in Houston turned off non-essential equipment. Within minutes, Mission Control gave an all-clear, but sent the astronauts scurrying back over to the

Russian side again when there was more evidence of a possible leak of the coolant.

The highly toxic liquid ammonia, flowing outside the space station, is used to cool electronics.

Flight controllers originally feared it had gotten into the water system running inside. Now, it’s believed that a failed card in a computer-relay box was the culprit.

The crew — three Russians, two Americans and the Italian Cristoforetti — stayed in the three, relatively small Russian compartments while Mission Control analyzed data.

Engineers wanted to understand the computer failure and confirm “that the system is tight like we believe it to be,” space station program manager Mike Suffredini said on NASA TV.

About 11 hours after the ammonia system-alarm sounded, the hatch to the U.S. segment was reopened. Cristoforetti and U.S. astronaut Terry Virts ran tests and no ammonia was

detected.

When the alarm went off, the crew had been dealing with supplies and experiments from the newly arrived SpaceX capsule — including fruit flies. None of the research appears to be jeopardized, Suffredini said. Russian space officials at first reported an actual leak, then backed off that statement.

The 260-mile-high complex has never had to be abandoned during its 14-year-plus occupation by astronauts. On occasion, crews have had to seek shelter in their Soyuz capsule “lifeboats” because of close shaves with orbiting junk, in case a quick getaway was needed. This time, the astronauts went into one of the three Russian modules as trained for an emergency, but not the two docked Soyuz capsules.

Besides Cristoforetti and Virts, the crew includes Commander Butch Wilmore, an American, and Russians Elena Serova, Alexander Samokutyaev and Anton Shkaplerov. □

Study: Sea level rise accelerating more than once thought

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world’s oceans are now rising far faster than they did in the past, a new study says.

The study found that for much of the 20th century — until about 1990 — sea level was about 30 percent less than earlier research had figured. But that’s not good news, scientists say, because about 25 years ago the seas started rising faster and the acceleration in 1990 turns out to be more dramatic than previously calculated.

The current sea level rise rate — which started in 1990 — is 2.5 times faster than it was from 1900 to 1990, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature. Scientists say that faster pace of sea level rise is from melting ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica and shrinking glaciers, triggered by man-made global warming.

“We’re seeing a significant acceleration in the past few decades,” said study lead author Carling Hay, a geophysical researcher at Harvard University. “It’s

concerning for cities along the U.S. East Coast” where water levels are rising even faster than the world average.

“It’s definitely something that can’t be ignored,” Hay said.

Previous research said that between 1900 and 1990, the seas rose about two-thirds of an inch (20 millimeters) a decade. The new study recalculates the 1900-1990 rate to less than half an inch a decade.

Old and new research both say that since 1990 seas are rising at about 1.2 inches (30 millimeters) a decade.

While hundreds of tide gauges around the world have been measuring sea levels since 1900, they have mostly been in Europe and North America with few in the polar regions or the middle of the oceans, Hay said. So past estimates of 20th century sea level rise gave an incomplete picture of the global effect, said study co-author Jerry Mitrovica, a geophysics professor at Harvard.

The new method uses statistical analysis and computer models to better simulate the areas in the gap, Mitrovica said.

Outside scientists praised the new study, but were still cautious about adopting the estimates until more studies could be done.

“The implications are troubling — accelerated ocean warming, ice sheet collapse and sea level rise — all point to more and more sea level rise in the future, perhaps at a faster rate than previously thought,” said Jonathan Overpeck, co-director of the Institute of the Environment at the University of Arizona. “This will make adaptation to climate change more difficult and costly.” □

Willie Nelson, Usher, Chris Martin to pay tribute to Wonder



In this Nov. 29, 2014 file photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau, Stevie Wonder performs in Las Vegas.

NEW YORK (AP) — Willie Nelson, Usher and Coldplay's Chris Martin will pay tribute to Stevie Wonder at a concert next month. The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that Ed Sheeran and Janelle Monae will also perform at "Stevie Wonder: Songs in the Key of Life — An All-Star Grammy Salute" on Feb. 10. The concert will

take place two days after the 57th annual Grammy Awards. Tickets for the tribute show are currently on sale. The concert will be held at the Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE in Los Angeles. It will air as a two-hour special on CBS on Feb. 16. Wonder has been awarded 25 Grammy Awards during his illustrious career. □

Associated Press

Yahoo sets March debut date for sitcom 'Community'

PASADENA, California (AP) — The axed network sitcom "Community" will make its web debut on Yahoo in March. Yahoo announced Tuesday that the sitcom will begin its online life with a pair of episodes. Then it will air once weekly. Last June, Yahoo, Sony Pictures Television and series creator Dan Harmon reached a deal for a 13-episode sixth season. Harmon is serving as executive producer. "Community" is about a group of friends who come together at a community college with an iffy pedigree. The com-



In March 26, 2014 file photo, Dan Harmon arrives at PALEYFEST 2014 - "Community" in Los Angeles. Associated Press

edy has loyal followers, but too few of them for broadcast network NBC to keep it. Yahoo credited passionate "Community" fans with keeping the show alive. The comedy starring Joel McHale will debut March 17. □

U.S. sniper's widow struggled with his portrayal in film

DALLAS (AP) — The wife of a famed Navy SEAL sniper said she struggled with the idea of someone playing the movie role of her husband, who was killed two years ago near Fort Worth, Texas.

But Taya Kyle told The Dallas Morning News (<http://bit.ly/1xYwsVs>) that actor Bradley Cooper did an excellent job accurately portraying her husband, Chris, and the difficult decisions he faced while fighting in Iraq and his struggles with determining his role when he returned from war. In the film, a subtle facial tic that Cooper has as he looks through the scope of his weapon made Kyle nearly forget she was watching an actor on screen, she said.

"It'd be almost like a tell in poker," she said. "In a stressful situation, Chris would do that." The movie, "American Sniper," is based on Chris Kyle's 2012 memoir that recounts his journey from being a rodeo cowboy to



Actor Bradley Cooper, left, with Taya Kyle, widow of US Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, speaks to reporters during the Washington premiere of the movie "American Sniper" at Burke Theatre at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015. Associated Press

a trained sniper credited with 160 kills. He was honorably discharged in 2009 after 10 years of service, including four tours in Iraq. In February 2013, Kyle and his friend, Chad Littlefield, were killed at a shooting range. Ex-Marine Eddie Ray Routh is charged with capital murder, and authorities say he confessed to the killings to a Texas Ranger. He remains in jail

in lieu of \$3 million bail. His trial is scheduled to start next month. Cooper and the film's director, Clint Eastwood, visited Taya Kyle in Midlothian — south of Dallas — before filming. The trio sat around and talked, with Kyle showing them her husband's baseball caps, cowboy boots and the clothes still hanging in his closet. □



In this Nov. 12, 2014 file photo, Ann Curry attends the Panthere de Cartier Collection dinner & party at Skylight Clarkson Studios in New York. Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Longtime NBC News correspondent and anchor Ann Curry is leaving her full-time job with the network after a quarter-century. But she will still be seen on NBC platforms, the company said Tuesday in announcing a partnership with her and the media venture she

Ann Curry to exit NBC News

will launch, to be "seeded" by NBCUniversal. The arrangement will allow Curry to report on any platform or network, in or out of NBC News. Her startup will generate content of national and global importance with a multi-platform distribution approach, NBC said. "This is about reaching for the edge of the future in journalism," Curry said. "I am excited about working to become a valuable link between traditional media and what is to come." "We're proud to support Ann in her new venture, and we look forward to more of her exceptional storytelling," said Pat Fili-Krushel, chairman of NBCUniversal News Group. "She is committed to uncovering critical issues, humanizing them, and ultimately helping viewers un-

derstand and connect." Curry, 58, had been with NBC since 1990, joining as a Chicago-based correspondent. Among her many roles, she anchored "NBC News at Sunrise" for six years and anchored "Dateline NBC." She also established herself as a globe-trotting correspondent, reporting from such hotspots as Sudan to report on the violence and ethnic cleansing, and to Albania and Macedonia, where she reported on the humanitarian refugee crisis caused by the genocide in Kosovo. Her exit comes 2 ½ years after she was ousted from the anchor desk of the "Today" show after just a year, during which questions persisted about her comfort level alongside Matt Lauer. □

Wilmore taking his own path as Colbert replacement

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As Larry Wilmore sits down with a plate of pasta, a fan hands him a slip of paper with an idea to explore on Wilmore's new Comedy Central show premiering Monday. It's about international banking issues.

OK, that's a stretch. Even if Wilmore exudes more gravitas than the typical comic, he's unlikely to find the funny there.

Yet the encounter illustrates one of Wilmore's strengths as he prepares to replace Stephen Colbert in the time slot following "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart. At 53, he's got a resume and maturity that a 28-year-old joke slinger can't match, and he's planning a show that's not afraid to mix the serious with the silly.

"Better to have an authentic, interesting conversation and have the show be a little quieter than just setting up jokes that at the end of the day nobody cares about," he said. "That, I'm



In this Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, file photo, Larry Wilmore speaks on stage during Comedy Central's "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore," panel at the Viacom 2015 Winter TCA, in Pasadena, Calif. **Associated Press**

not interested in. I'd rather be scared by something somebody says."

Wilmore played a role, the "senior black correspondent," on "The Daily Show." He's replacing a man who famously portrayed a cable blowhard on "The Colbert Report," but Wilmore plans to be himself.

Wilmore wrote for "In Living Color" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air." He created "The Bernie Mac Show" and co-created the animated series "The PJs." He was set to be the executive producer of ABC's new sitcom "black-ish" before Stewart offered him this opportunity.

Creating the new show "doesn't intimidate me at all," Wilmore said. "It would have if I hadn't done that before. That's another reason I think Jon felt comfortable saying, you know, Larry's got this."

Originally called "The Minority Report," the program was designed to showcase

underdogs, not simply racial minorities. Since Fox owns that title because of a movie of the same name and made clear it wasn't happy, a switch was made to "The Nightly Show."

"It fills a void," said Comedy Central President Michele Ganeless. "It's so simple at its very core, the idea that there are under-represented voices out there."

Wilmore expects to anchor half the show, with comic observations and work from contributors Shenaz Treasury, Ricky Velez and Mike Yard. A panel inspired by the likes of "Politically Incorrect" and "Meet the Press" will toss around issues of the day. "The Daily Show" dissects how the media covers news; "The Nightly Show" will be about the news itself.

It requires a nimble approach, both in keeping the conversation moving and booking panelists knowledgeable about the issues on short notice. Wilmore hopes he and the viewers learn something. □



In this June 29, 2014 file photo, from left, actors Nicola Peltz, Mark Wahlberg, Li Bingbing, and Jack Reynor pose for photographers, during the European premiere of the film "Transformers: Age of Extinction," at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin. **Associated Press**

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Transformers: Age of Extinction" is rolling out with the most nominations at this year's Golden Raspberry Awards. The action sequel starring Mark Wahlberg alongside morphing robots led all films Tuesday with seven nominations, including

worst picture, worst sequel, worst screenplay and worst screen combo.

"Transformers" is also up for worst director for Michael Bay, worst supporting actress for Nicola Peltz, and worst supporting actor for Kelsey Grammer, who was also recognized for his supporting parts in "The Expendables 3," "Legends of

'Transformers' sequel leads Razzies 'worst-of' list

Oz" and "Think Like a Man Too."

The nominations were released to The Associated Press on Tuesday ahead of an official announcement on Wednesday.

This year's other worst picture nominees are "Kirk Cameron's Saving Christmas," "Left Behind," "The Legend of Hercules" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

The faith-based comedy "Saving Christmas" and the Kellan Lutz action flick "Legend of Hercules" both collected six nominations, including worst actor for Cameron and Lutz.

The nominees for worst screen combo are Cameron and his ego in "Saving Christmas"; Seth MacFarlane and Charlize Theron in "A Million Ways To Die in the West"; any two robots, actors (or robotic actors)

in "Transformers"; Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel in "Sex Tape"; and Lutz and either his abs, pecs or glutes in "Legend of Hercules."

The Razzies, which launched in 1980 as a spoof of Hollywood's awards season, added a new category this year called the redeemer award that lauds past Razzie honorees.

The inaugural redeemer award nominees are: Ben Affleck for being praised for both "Argo" and "Gone Girl" after winning the worst actor trophy in 2004 for "Gigli," "Daredevil" and "Paycheck"; Jennifer Aniston for her Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for "Cake" following four Razzie nods; Mike Myers for earning acclaim as the director of the documentary "Supermensch" after winning three Razzies

for "Love Guru" in 2008; six-time Razzie nominee Keanu Reeves for rebounding with "John Wick"; and "Twilight" star and former Razzie recipient Kristen Stewart for earning rave reviews for the indie film "Camp X-Ray."

The Razzies announcement came ahead of Thursday's Oscar nominations.

The winners of the 35th annual Razzies are selected by online votes from the organization's 757 members. They will be announced at Hollywood's Montalban Theater on Feb. 21, the night before the 87th annual Academy Awards.

While far less star-studded than other award shows, past Razzie recipients such as Halle Berry and Sandra Bullock have shown up in person to jokingly accept their gold spray-painted prizes. □

College Moneyball Winners



JOE NOCERA
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Writing this column on Monday afternoon, I could have only guessed at the final score of the big game between Ohio State and Oregon. But I certainly knew who the winners were in this first ever "true" national championship college football game.

ESPN, which bought the rights to the four-team College Football Playoff (\$7.3 billion for 12 years) is a winner. The two bowl games in the first round of the playoffs, which were played on New Year's Day, were the two highest-rated shows in the history of cable television. For Monday night's championship game, ESPN charged \$1 million for a 30-second ad.

The five "power conferences" are winners. For years, they resisted a college football playoff, partly because they feared it would lessen the importance of the regular season. It is already obvious that the College Football Playoff has made this season more exciting and - to sweeten the deal - far more lucrative, netting each conference some \$50 million a year.

The coaches for the two teams are winners: Oregon's Mark Helfrich, who makes \$2 million a year, plus up to \$1.1 million in bonuses, will get an extra \$250,000 if his Ducks win. Ohio State's Urban Meyer, who makes \$4.5 million a year, got a big bonus just for making the four-team playoff. Phil Knight, the co-founder of Nike, is a winner. Both Ohio State and Oregon wear Nike gear. Plus, Knight has spent more than \$300 million over the years ensuring that his beloved Ducks - he's an Oregon native - have the best of everything. The game Monday night was his reward.

In the long march to maximize revenue in college sports, there has never been an event quite so nakedly about money as the College Football Playoff. Even the March Madness basketball championship tournament, which nets the NCAA around \$800 million annually, has a certain charm that arises from those inevitable, and wonderful, early-round upsets.

On media day - yes, the College Football Playoff held a media day, just like the pros do in advance of the Super Bowl - several players noted all the money swirling around them, and wondered why they weren't getting any of it. Bill Plaschke, the longtime sports columnist for The Los Angeles Times, wrote afterward that the playoff system had changed his view that a college educa-

tion was reward enough for college athletes. He described media day as "the day college football officially turned pro," and he added that it "truly seems ridiculous that the players are not sharing even a small piece of this value they create."

Paradoxically, this emphasis on money-above-all-else, while creating unimaginable riches for the people who administer college sports, has also created a sense of crisis. Idealistic reformers are calling for universities to re-emphasize education. These reformers appear to have the ear of the White House. (Arne Duncan, the secretary of education, who played basketball at Harvard, is allied with this group.) There is talk of a presidential commission on college sports.

Meanwhile, USA Today reports that the conference commissioners, and other members of the college sports industrial complex, have formed a group called the Coalition to Save College Sports. Its goal is to get out the message that college athletes already have a good deal - without compensation. "Thanks to the way college sports are run," their leaders wrote in an email, "student-athletes gain an education, learn skills, and have opportunities in life." In other words, now that we've gotten ours, we want to make sure the players don't get theirs.

The central conundrum is that universities are simply not built to run a multibillion-dollar entertainment industry. The only way they can do it is by looking the other way at certain practices, and making allowances for good athletes who don't care much about college itself. One of the reasons I advocate paying football and men's basketball players is that it would at least ensure that they got something for their efforts.

The starting quarterback for Ohio State in Monday night's championship game was Cardale Jones. He would seem to be exactly the kind of athlete that the college sports industrial complex points to when it talks about how a college scholarship can help a "student athlete" better his life. Cardale, a sophomore at Ohio State, grew up in a rough neighborhood in Cleveland, the youngest of six children raised by a single mother. Until recently, he was the team's third-string quarterback; indeed, the only reason he was getting to starting the game was because the two quarterbacks in front of him were hurt. Unlikely to have a pro career, you'd think he would embrace the opportunity to get a free education.

Yet a few years ago, Jones tweeted, "Why should we have to go to class if we came here to play FOOTBALL, we ain't come to play SCHOOL classes are POINTLESS."

That is the circle that can't be squared, no matter how many presidential commissions - or coalitions to save college sports - try.

Editor's Note: Ohio State beat Oregon 42-20.



Tamir Rice and the Value of Life



CHARLES M. BLOW
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An extended video released last week of the shooting death of Tamir Rice in Cleveland appears to show an unconscionable level of human depravity on the part of the officer who shot him, a stunning disregard for the value of his life and a callousness toward the people who loved him. His black life didn't seem to matter. But it does.

On Nov. 22, two officers responded to a 911 call about a "guy" in a park pointing a gun that was "probably fake." (By the way, Ohio is an open-carry state, so having and carrying a gun is not a crime in and of itself.) The guy was Tamir. He had a pellet gun. There is no indication in police statements that he ever fired it.

One of the officers, Timothy Loehmann, shot Tamir within "1.5 to two seconds" of arriving at the park. Two seconds. So quickly. In the blink of an eye. And yet, according to The Associated Press, the officers say that they ordered Tamir to put his hands up three times before he was shot. According to the original statement released by the police, "The suspect did not comply with the officers' orders and reached to his waistband for the gun."

All in 1.5 to 2 seconds? Really.

Take a moment and time yourself giving three commands, imagining a response from Tamir and making the decision to shoot. Maybe it can be done in less than 2 seconds. But to my mind, it strains credulity.

When one of the officers called in the shooting, he said: "Shots fired, male down, black male, maybe 20." Tamir was 12.

Tamir's 14-year-old sister, Tajai, was in a nearby recreation center when she said she heard a gunshot. She said someone told her that a boy had been shot - her own brother.

She raced to his aid, but as the video shows, one of the officers tackled her, handcuffed her and stuffed her into the back of the police cruiser, just feet away from where her brother was bleeding out onto the snow-dappled ground.

She could not reach him. Her arms could not cradle his body and plead for him to hang on. Her hands could not stroke his cheek, and she could not whisper hopefully, "It's going to be OK." Her eyes could not gaze into his and say what sisters are able to say without saying anything: "I love you."

Tamir deserved that, but the officers made sure that she could not provide it. Four minutes passed without anyone offering the boy aid or comfort. Four long minutes he lay there, still alive, with the burn of a bullet in his abdomen.

How excruciating must the pain have been? How slowly must the time have passed? How great must his fear and sadness have been? What must Tamir have thought as the officers hovered about, not helping him?

Hopefully, events to the contrary, he didn't think that his life didn't matter. It did and it does.

Tamir died from his wound the next day.

It is hard to think of the gravely injured boy and the aloof officers who'd done the deed but with-

held their help, and not reach a white-hot level of righteous indignation.

Tamir was a human being, a child - who could have been any of our children, and who was robbed of his life and therefore his future. Twelve years old. That's just a baby, a baby with a hole in his belly. This wrong must be made right.

There is a basic respect for life that should have governed that day, and which seems, in the video, shockingly absent from it. Not only is the shooting itself disturbing, but the failure to render aid is unconscionable. And this didn't just happen in Tamir's case. The same apathy about the immediate administration of care is echoed in other cases where black boys and men lay dying. After George Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin, Zimmerman mounted the boy and stretched his arms wide. Martin was still alive.

(By the way, Zimmerman was arrested yet again Saturday, this time on charges of aggravated assault and domestic violence with a weapon for allegedly throwing a wine bottle at his girlfriend. "Georgie" doesn't seem so peaceful anymore, does he?) After officers choked Eric Garner until he fell unconscious, no one administered CPR. Instead they checked his pockets. Garner was still alive.

As Salon put it, after Darren Wilson shot Michael Brown through the head, Wilson didn't check to see if Brown "was breathing or if he had a pulse; nor did he render aid in any way, shape or form."

The list goes on, quite literally, ad nauseam.

The plaintive voices of the dead call the living to action. So, in the demand for justice, timorousness must be the enemy, tirelessness must be the motto and righteousness must be the compass.

The world must be made to acknowledge that Tamir Rice's life mattered.



The Root of the Matter

A lentil salad with roasted root vegetables, radicchio and bacon, prepared in New York, Jan. 6, 2015. The bulk of lentils makes this recipe a veritable mountain of salad, making it an excellent dish for a party or leftovers. (Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

MELISSA CLARK

© 2015 New York Times

A lentil salad can be tasty. It can be healthy. But it's rarely pretty.

Except this one. Here's a version that is as vivid and bright in looks as it is in flavor.

The color comes from caramelized root vegetables in a range of hues, the more the better. If you're a winter farmers market habitué, this is your moment to indulge in all the varieties of turnips, beets, carrots and winter squash that are offered. They may not be as thrilling as heirloom tomatoes, but they have their own quiet charm, and this salad is a terrific place to flaunt it. Feel free to substitute different roots. This particular combination is what I had on hand, but if you've got parsnips instead of celery root, or radishes instead of turnips, use them. For the most eye-catching result, though, try to find something white (turnips, celery root and/or parsnips), something red (beets and/or radishes), something orange (carrots and/or squash) and something yel-

low (carrots and/or golden beets).

Then start roasting the densest vegetables like butternut squash and carrots first, adding the quicker-cooking ones later so everything emerges from the oven at the same time, golden brown and gorgeous. You don't need to be exact here; root vegetables have a wide margin of error when it comes to doneness. Just as long as they are tender within, the degree of browning on the surface can vary.

If you don't want to use the bacon, fine. While it adds a brawny smokiness to the salad, it's not essential. The sherry vinaigrette, coupled with a squeeze of fresh tangerine juice at the end, has an assertive enough character to make up for the lack of pork. Tangerine sounds a bit unusual, I know, but it is more floral and sweeter than lemon, and I usually have it or a bowl of clementines on the counter in winter.

Now, a word about the lentils. I used the plain old brown ones here because they are easy to find and,

when cooked with a bay leaf and some garlic, taste earthy and rich. But they don't hold their shape as well as tiny green French lentils (lentilles du Puy), so if that's your priority and you don't mind tracking them down, they are best.

This makes a near mountain of salad, so serve it for a party or plan on leftovers. It will be just as appealing shared with friends or eaten solo at your desk for lunch the next day.

LENTIL SALAD WITH ROAST VEGETABLES

Time: 1 1/2 hours

Yield: 10 to 12 servings

For the Lentil Salad:

1 small whole acorn squash, peeled if desired, halved, seeded and diced into 1/2-inch pieces

2 medium carrots, peeled and diced into 1/2-inch pieces

1 medium celeriac, peeled and diced into 1/2-inch pieces

3 small beets, peeled and diced into 1/2-inch pieces

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 sprigs thyme

1 sprig rosemary, cut in half
4 slices (4 ounces) bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces (optional)

2 cups brown or green lentils

2 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled

1 bay leaf

1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, more to taste

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

For the Sherry Vinaigrette:

1/4 cup sherry vinegar, more to taste

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, more as needed

For Serving:

2 heads radicchio, sliced

2 scallions, thinly sliced (whites and greens)

Parsley, roughly chopped, for garnish

Flaky sea salt, to taste

Cracked black pepper, to taste

1 tangerine, halved and seeded

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Place vegetables in one layer on 1 or 2 large rimmed baking pans, then toss with olive oil and salt. Place thyme and rosemary on top of vegetables, cover pans with foil and roast for

25 minutes. Remove foil, stir in bacon if using and bake for 30 to 40 minutes longer, until vegetables are tender and golden all over.

2. In a large pot, combine lentils, 6 cups water, garlic, bay leaf, salt and pepper and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 to 30 minutes, until lentils are tender.

3. In a small bowl, whisk together vinegar, mustard and salt. Then whisk in olive oil.

4. Drain lentils and discard bay leaf; keep or discard garlic as you like. Toss lentils with half of the sherry vinaigrette while still warm. Add more salt, olive oil and vinegar as needed.

5. Toss radicchio with enough of remaining vinaigrette to lightly coat it and arrange it on a platter. Combine lentils and roasted vegetables, adding more of the vinaigrette to taste; spoon mixture on top of radicchio. Garnish with scallions, parsley, sea salt and black pepper. Squeeze tangerine juice over the lentils and drizzle with more olive oil if needed. □